Perez: Plotters wanted to kill Macapagal, Estrada

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

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Miriam to arrest officers

BY N. BORDADORA AND J. ANING

THIS promises to be a virtual action movie starring Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

MIRIAM/ A6

SIGE, SUBUKAN NYO!

Erap thanks GMA for visit

'Very friendly, very cordial meeting' breaks tense atmosphere

BY JULIET JAVELLANA AND VOLT CONTRERAS

IN A surprise visit yesterday to her jailed predecessor, President Macapagal-Arroyo shook the hand wearing the signature presidential wristband, and granted Joseph Estrada two concessions: curtains and longer visiting hours.

Estrada said he was "thankful to our dear President" for checking on his welfare and the condition of his detention center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, according to a Malacañang statement.

"She was a bit elated that former President Estrada used that term 'our President,'" said Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, who briefed the media on the noon meeting later.

Their first meeting since Estrada was ousted on Jan. 20 was "very friendly and very cordial" and lasted 20 minutes, Tiglao said, adding that the President was "satisfied" with the way it went.

Ms Macapagal was "toured around" the bungalow-like maximum-security detention center by Estrada's son and fellow detainee Jinggoy, while the father "brought up some concerns," according to Interior Secretary Joey Lina, who went with the President.

Estrada brought up his request to be placed under house arrest, but the President told him that his request was already under consideration in the Sandiganbayan.

"I'm here to ensure that (former) President Estrada is very much comfortable because it is in accordance with his position and service to our nation," Ms Macapagal said in footage of the visit taken by the government-owned RTVM.

In turn, Estrada thanked "Ma-

ERAP/ A19

RECONCILIATION, it is not, according to the Palace of the visit of President Macapagal to her predecessor as there's no personal enmity between them. Note Estrada covering his signature wristband that still bears the presidential seal.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

'Rebellion' worries diplomats

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

THE CLAMOR is growing for an immediate lifting of a state of rebellion that President Macapagal-Arroyo declared in Metro Manila despite her assurance that she may do so on May 7.

Even the diplomatic community has voiced concerns that the declaration is "only a step or two away from martial law," according to a top official of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"The only way to convince the international community of stability in the country is to lift the declaration of a state of rebellion," said the official who asked not to be identified.

Former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon confirmed the DFA official's observation, saying the gripping footage of the clashes

REBELLION/ A20

Perez: Junta plotters planned to kill GMA, Erap

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND ARMAND NOCUM

ALLEGED junta plotters had planned to kill President Macapagal-Arroyo and jailed predecessor Joseph Estrada, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday, citing intelligence reports. Warning that the worst may not be over, Perez told reporters the assassinations would have allowed the coup plotters to take over the country and establish their own junta.

Asked if Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, one of the 11 opposition leaders ordered arrested after the government dispersed demonstrators, would have been interested in taking over, Perez said: "That seems to be the idea."

"As of the moment, it is not over," Perez earlier told a Supreme Court hearing for Enrile and former Estrada spokesperson Ernesto Maceda. "We don't know whether the calm that we have now is the eye of the storm. We have intelligence reports that all is not well."

Police have arrested at least four of their targets but continue seeking former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson and reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan.

The two Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates, and Lacson's trusted men Brig. Gen. Jake Malajacan and Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino have been declared "fugitives and threats to national security."

The four, who are among the suspected principal instigators of the violent May 1 attack on Malacañang, are now listed in the "roster of wanted persons" of the Philippine National Police and the target of a nationwide manhunt, according to PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, yesterday said a "bounty" was being considered for the arrest of the four men.

Mendoza ordered the arrest of reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, also a PnM candidate.

Senior Supt. Evna Ruiz was assigned to enforce the warrantless arrest on Santiago, who had announced that she would resist arrest and defend herself.

PEREZ/ A20

'I don't want my father to be another Dacer'

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

"I DON'T want my father to be another (Bubby) Dacer."

The daughter of Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., the judge tasked to preside over the plunder trial of ex-President Joseph Estrada, made the remark after unidentified people yesterday tried to burn down her apartment.

Badoy was sleeping in a room upstairs when daughter Christine B. Sanchez discovered the fire outside the Quezon City apartment before dawn, and put it out.

Although the damage from the fire was minimal, the Sandiganbayan is not taking lightly the apparent attempt on Badoy's life, and has not ruled out the possibility that it could be related to Estrada's approaching trial.

"We believe that his life is in danger," Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta said in Taglish, adding that the court's security force was directed to deploy more men to protect the justice and his family.

Badoy declined to be interviewed, but Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena said the arson attack would not scare the anti-court justices.

"We will assume that all the law enforcement agencies of

I DON'T/ A6

ERIK ARAZAS

PRINCIPAL suspects behind the power grab, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and ex-Sen. Ernesto Maceda attend hearings at the Supreme Court where they question the legality of their warrantless arrest. Maceda was rushed to the hospital last night for high blood pressure.

Lacson: Lumbao ordered protest march on Palace

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

BREAKING his silence after he was implicated in the alleged plot to oust President Macapagal, opposition senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson yesterday disclosed that one of the organizers of the so-called Edsa III instigated the storming of Malacañang.

The former Philippine National Police chief said Ronald Lumbao, leader of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), ordered supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada on Tuesday to march from the Edsa Shrine to Mendiola.

Lacson, who has gone into hiding, pointed to Lumbao even as he insisted that he was not guilty of the charge of rebellion.

In a statement, Lacson said "he was not at the Edsa Shrine when the supposed call for a march to Mendiola was made by Ronald Lumbao."

Lacson also said that he did not recall having uttered "any seditious remark" before the Edsa Shrine

LACSON/ A19

BAR EXAMS

2nd, 4th placers come from Ateneo de Davao

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY AND AYAN C. MELLEJOR, *PDI Mindanao Bureau* AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

IT'S ATENEO de Davao University (AdDU).

The second and fourth placers in the 2000 bar exams are not from the Ateneo de Manila as erroneously reported by the INQUIRER yesterday.

They are AdDU graduates, Arvin Dexter Lopoz, 28, this year's No. 2, and Rogelio Largo, No. 4.

The topnotcher, Eliseo M. Zuñiga Jr., who bested 978 other bar examinees last September, is an alumnus of the University of the Philippines.

The 979 bar passers represented only 20.84 percent of the 4,698 who took the bar exams on Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24 at the De La Salle University on Taft Avenue.

Last year, the passing percentile, 16.59 percent, was one of the

2ND/ A18

All roads to Malacañang blocked

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM, DAVE VERIDIANO AND CARLITO PABLO

DESPITE the plan to lift the state of rebellion a week after the riots, all roads to Malacañang have been blocked.

President Macapagal-Arroyo plans to lift on May 7 the state of rebellion she enforced in Metro Manila starting May 1 to quell the violence staged by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada, officials yesterday said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the declaration would be lifted even if some of those who allegedly plotted to topple the President had not yet been arrested.

"She feels strongly that the rebellion is on the way to being suppressed. The leaders are on the run," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

But Tiglao said the deadline for lifting the state of rebellion was not fixed. "It is a target and based on current developments, we may meet it. Of course, it all depends on the situation. It is not a hard and fast deadline," he said.

Malacañang released yesterday copies of General Order No. 1, which directs the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police to "suppress the rebellion" in Metro Manila, and Proclamation No. 38, "Declaring a state of rebellion in the National Capital Region." They were dated May 1.

The declaration allows for the arrest without warrant of those who

ALL/ A20

SABIT NANAMAN ANG PAOCTF!

Barclays sees more peso woes

SINGAPORE—The peso faces a substantial fall over the next year, with civil unrest in the country unlikely to subside in the near future, Barclays Capital said Thursday.

As the peso hovered around 50.65 to the US dollar, the investment bank forecast it could fall to 58.00 within nine to 12 months, and said the central bank did not have the means to mount a strong defense of the currency.

The arrest of former President Joseph Estrada on graft charges has turned him into a political martyr to his supporters, Barclays Capital said in an Asian research report.

It said President Macapagal-Arroyo, who replaced Estrada after a popular revolt in January, ran the risk of increasing sympathy for the ousted leader with her hardline stance, which could translate into a strong showing for Estrada followers in the May 14 elections.

"This would make it difficult for the current administration to obtain a swift conviction, quell civil unrest and manage a much needed fiscal consolidation," the report said. *AFP*

TWO relatives of kidnap victims from Hong Kong arrive at the airport to file charges.

ROGER MARGALLO

Ping's men face kidnap, murder raps

BY TJ BURGONIO AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

TWO Hong Kong nationals planed into the country yesterday to formally file charges of kidnapping and murder against certain officers and men of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Queena Lao Yuet and Chong Kam Fai, wife and brother, respectively, of alleged kidnap and murder victims Wong Kao Chong and Chong Hi Ming, were met at the airport by National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco who whisked them off to the Department of Justice.

Wong and Chong were Hong Kong businessmen who came to the Philippines at different times several years ago and disappeared.

In the charges filed by the relatives with the DOJ, they named Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and John Campos of the PAOCTF as the ones who negotiated with them for the release of their loved ones in exchange for HK$5 million each.

John Does

Included in the charges were several John Does representing other PAOCTF officers believed involved in the crimes but who remain unidentified.

Wycoco said the possible involvement of then Philippine National Police chief and PAOCTF head Panfilo Lacson in the kidnappings will be looked into. Lacson is a candidate for senator in the May 14 elections.

Queena and Chong said that even after ransom was paid, their loved ones were never heard from again and are presumed dead.

Queena's husband disappeared on March 24, 1999 while on a business trip to Manila. Chong's brother was believed kidnapped on Dec. 21, 1998.

The two said that in both cases, it was Aquino, who was PAOCTF chief for operations, and Campos who directly negotiated with them for the release of the victims, according to Wycoco.

Wycoco said Aquino had allegedly demanded HK$5 million for the release of each man, but Wong's family was only able to come up with HK$100,000.

"Wong's relatives never saw him again," he said.

Chong said Aquino also contacted them but after they paid the ransom, his brother was not released and has remained missing.

The two corroborated similar charges of kidnap and murder filed against Aquino, Campos and other PAOCTF officers by former task force agent Mary Ong.

Queena and Chong arrived in Manila at 10 a.m. accompanied by a member of the Hong Kong police.

They were expected to fly back to the Chinese special region after filing the charges.

The two said they decided to come to Manila and file the charges after they learned of Ong's case against Aquino and Campos through the Philippine consulate in Hong Kong.

Plot foiled

In another kidnap case, Wycoco announced the arrest of a Singaporean national, William Chee Hong Leung, for allegedly conspiring with a Filipino to abduct two other Singaporeans.

The plot was foiled after the Filipino, Antonio Ramos, revealed the plan to the intended victims—Jimmy Chua and Foo Jong King.

Chua and King hurriedly left for Singapore on Sunday after informing the Singapore Embassy in Manila of the kidnap attempt.

Presuming that Chua and King had been abducted by Ramos, Leung reportedly demanded money from the company the two worked for.

The NBI set a trap and caught Leung in the act of collecting the $50,000 ransom at the Development Bank of Singapore in Binondo on Monday.

Leung is being held at the NBI jail after charges of robbery-extortion before the Manila City Prosecutors Office were filed against him.

Parents to build schools —Roco

PARENTS of public school students would soon be building classrooms for their own children to address the perennial backlog of school buildings in the country.

Education Secretary Raul Roco has crafted a school building program that would directly involve the Parents-Teachers Association in public schools in the construction of classrooms.

In his report to the President during a Cabinet meeting Tuesday, Roco said the involvement of parents would boost the relationship between school officials and parents and hasten the completion of the school building projects of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

"Involving the PTAs would generate short-term employment. When parents and teachers build their own classrooms, the whole community participates, it's cheaper and there would be more classrooms," said Roco.

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The more things change, the more they stay poor

FOR TENS of thousands of ordinary Filipinos, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

"No government has done anything to actually improve my life," Rita Hornandes yesterday said as she doled out beef stew and rice from her hawker stall on Roxas Boulevard.

"I am doing what my mother did . . . My daughter will end up doing what I do," she said. "How can anything change?"

Hornandes, 40, was speaking three days after President Macapagal-Arroyo crushed an attempt by tens of thousands of supporters of ousted leader Joseph Estrada to storm Malacañang.

Although the attempt was repulsed, the bloody riot was the latest manifestation of the "people power" type of politics that has dominated the Philippines since the 1986 civilian-backed military revolt that overthrew the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Hornandes said she took part in the marches that led to the ousting of Marcos, swept along by the party spirit of the crowd and buoyed by the prospect of change promised by his successor, Corazon Aquino.

Deceived by love

"I had a typical life," she said. "I was one of eight children. I did not get much schooling and I got pregnant when I was deceived by love."

Her last statement is greeted by knowing laughter from nearby stallholders—women with the same story to tell.

"Those were very exciting times. We really thought our lives would get better," said Esmeralda Cruz. "But unless you're born rich, you cannot get better."

Many of the stallholders said they had joined the crowd calling for Estrada's reinstatement this week, saying he had been unfairly singled out for punishment.

"Marcos made millions, he had no trial," Bing Polos said as he sat on the running board of his jeepney.

"Then Cory made millions. What about her? And what about Ramos?" he said, referring to Fidel Ramos, who preceded Estrada.

"The problem is that Erap is a hero, he is fighting for the poor and the rich don't like it."

Like many of Estrada's mainly impoverished supporters, Polos appeared to confuse Estrada the politician with Estrada the movie actor, famous for roles in which he played the good guy fighting against crime and corruption.

Many seem unable to believe his ousting, arrest and subsequent detention are not just part of the script of the latest blockbuster—particularly as so much of the drama has been played out on television in the full glare of the media.

"I cried when I saw him being escorted to jail. I saw it on TV," said Nita, speaking in a squatter camp in Pio del Pilar.

"He is not an animal. He deserves better treatment. To us, Erap is still the President," said Ruth Lozada, 39.

Getting even

And many fully expect him to break out of prison and get even with his enemies.

"It isn't over yet," said Manny Lopez, a self-taught mechanic. "Wait and see what happens."

But Estrada's fate looks bleak. Along with his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, he faces multiple charges of graft and economic plunder—the latter can be punished by death.

The government swiftly cracked down on this week's attempt to storm the presidential palace, declaring a state of rebellion and ordering the arrest of opposition politicians suspected of instigating the riot.

The government also banned gatherings of more than five people around Malacañang—a move the opposition says is flagrantly undemocratic, coming less than two weeks before the May 14 local and congressional elections.

But some analysts believe the real losers remain the country's impoverished millions who feel they have lost a champion.

Randolph David, sociology professor at the University of the Philippines, said Ms Macapagal had assumed power because she had played a delicate balancing act between the military, Church and civil society, but she had ignored the masses.

"She has yielded ground and concessions to all these groups but not yet to the poor," he said. "Not that she doesn't like to but that she has no money. The budget deficit is a problem—it's as simple as that."

And he warned that Estrada's politically important backers should be wary of letting the genie out of the bottle should they encourage more protests

Powderkeg

"Don't these people realize they are not of that crowd? They belong to enclaves of the elite," David said.

Other analysts and development experts said the recent rebellion of the poor in Metro Manila underscored the serious political risks of having large sections of the population living in poverty.

Estrada's opponents, however, have dismissed his ragged followers as a bunch of ignorant, misdirected and even drug-crazed hooligans, but some analysts warned that the crisis should be a wake-up call to heed the poor's clamor for a better life.

Isabel Ortiz, an economist with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) specializing in poverty reduction, said large pockets of poverty posed political risks.

"In the Philippines and many other Asian countries, what you have is a dual system where a large percentage of the population is excluded from the opportunities and benefits of society, and this is clearly risky," Ortiz said.

"Our challenge is to try to build societies which are inclusive and in which the poor have access to opportunities and services," she added.

An estimated one-third of Metro Manila's 10.5 million people are believed to be living in poverty, most of them in squalid and stinking slums with no sewage or clean water facilities.

Ms Macapagal, while cracking down on the bloody protest, has extended a conciliatory hand to the country's poor.

An economist by training, Ms Macapagal said what happened this week was not a war between the rich and the poor. She accused political opponents of manipulating Estrada's followers.

"She has an extensive agenda in front of her and she seems to have taken the first good steps," Ortiz said.

"She has only been a hundred days in government, so certainly the problem is that she inherited the situation from other administrations. She has not created it. Now she has many tasks ahead and certainly to reduce poverty will require a serious commitment to sustain growth and to promote equity and human welfare," she added.

The march on the Palace was the culmination of the so-called "Edsa Tres," six days of protests that at one point reached more than 100,000 people, by some counts *Reports from Reuters and AFP*

Anti-Erap leaflets rain on Erap turf

By Carlito Pablo

THOUSANDS of anti-Estrada leaflets were dropped from a private helicopter yesterday over selected urban poor communities believed to be the bailiwick of disgraced President Joseph Estrada.

Titled "Mga Dapat Mabatid ng Mamamayan," the four-page primer dealt with the reasons for Estrada's arrest, whether his rights were violated, why the Edsa came to be and what citizens should do in light of the recent failed power grab attempt against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The primer had three mugshots of Estrada which were taken when he previously posted at the Sandiganbayan and with the caption "people of the Philippines vs Joseph Ejercito Estrada."

This reporter saw the chopper as it was dropping the leaflets at the vicinity of Barangays Holy Spirit and Payatas in Quezon City at about 11:30 a.m.

A number of Estrada supporters who were arrested after the assault on Malacañang came from Barangay Holy Spirit.

"Let us defend the reforms we won last January," the leaflet exhorted in Filipino, referring to the Edsa II uprising, which booted out Estrada from Malacañang.

It also said that Estrada amassed P10 billion in ill-gotten wealth in just two years in office, hence he was charged and arrested for plunder.

The primer also said that the crowd at the Edsa Shrine was manipulated by pro-Estrada politicians particularly Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Juan Ponce Enrile and Gregorio Honasan, and Eduardo Angara and Panfilo Lacson.

It likewise charged that Estrada's son JV and mistress Laarni Enriquez were among those who financed the rally at the Edsa.

Adelberto Yap, chief of the Air Transportation Office, said the chopper, which earlier asked his office for a permit to distribute leaflets from the air belongs to RII Builders Inc.

The said company is owned by property developer Reghis Romero.

Yap noted that in its application for a permit, RII Buiders said its Ecurile helicopter bearing the sign RPC 2228 would be flying over Smokey Mountain in Manila.

Yap said he would be asking the chopper pilot identified only as Captain Lumanlang for further details regarding the flight.

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Palace adopts 'lost souls'

By J. L. Javellana

MALACAÑANG yesterday opened its doors to supporters of former President Joseph Estrada who had been shipped to Manila from Mindanao to take part in the assault on the Palace on May 1.

The Estrada partisans were reportedly abandoned by their recruiters after the attempt to take over Malacañang and reinstall Estrada to the presidency failed.

"We have activated an assistance center at the New Executive Building so the lost souls from Mindanao who wish to go back home could do so," said Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Northern Mindanao affairs.

Dureza said the Department of Social Welfare and Development has set aside funds to transport the pro-Estrada group back to Mindanao for free.

Fortuna, 77

NITA F. Fortuna, a retired school teacher at Odiongan, Romblon, died on Wednesday.

She is survived by children Edmund, Julius and Sabina, Maria Victoria and Chizuka, and grandchildren Jillian, Tomoyuki and Karina. Her body lies at the family residence in Odiongan.

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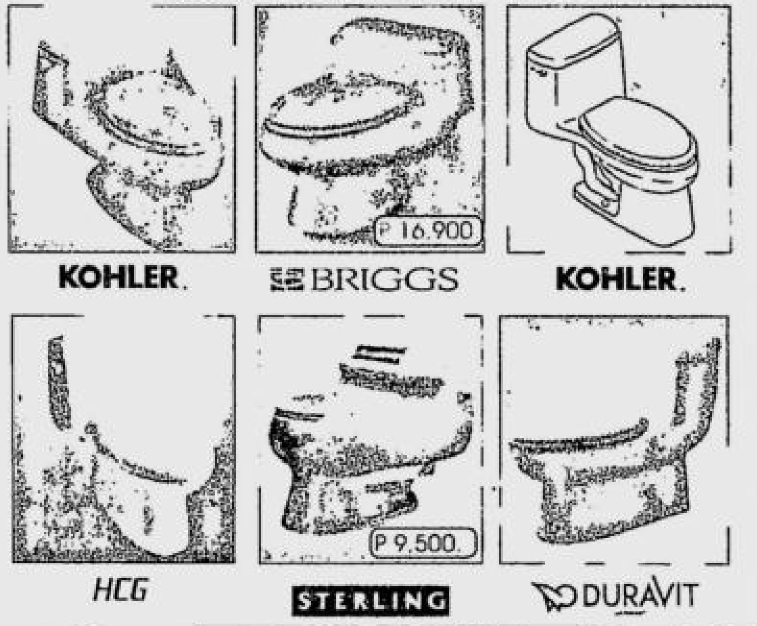

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PAASI

Noli breaks party ranks, hits Palace siege

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IS he still with the opposition?

Former ABS-CBN news anchor and senatorial candidate Noli de Castro contradicted his fellow opposition candidates over Tuesday's violent attack on Malacañang by ousted President Joseph Estrada's loyalists.

Instead of defending Estrada's followers as the others in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa slate did, De Castro denounced the "siege of Malacañang by rabid pro-Estrada loyalists" that left four people, including a policeman, dead and scores wounded.

He even praised the military and the police for "crushing the rebellion staged by apparently misguided elements of society."

"Such adventurism merely deepened the wounds of our country, which we have been trying to heal in the aftermath of the impeachment trial and (Estrada's ouster)," he said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER Wednesday night.

Apart from giving a contrary position, De Castro even disclosed that he was in the company of administration officials on Tuesday, the day of the bloody siege.

He said he was in Manaoag, Pangasinan, attending the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Manaoag with Lakas party president Jose de Venecia, Sen. Renato Cayetano and Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani.

De Castro is officially an independent but was taken in as a guest candidate by the LDP-PnM.

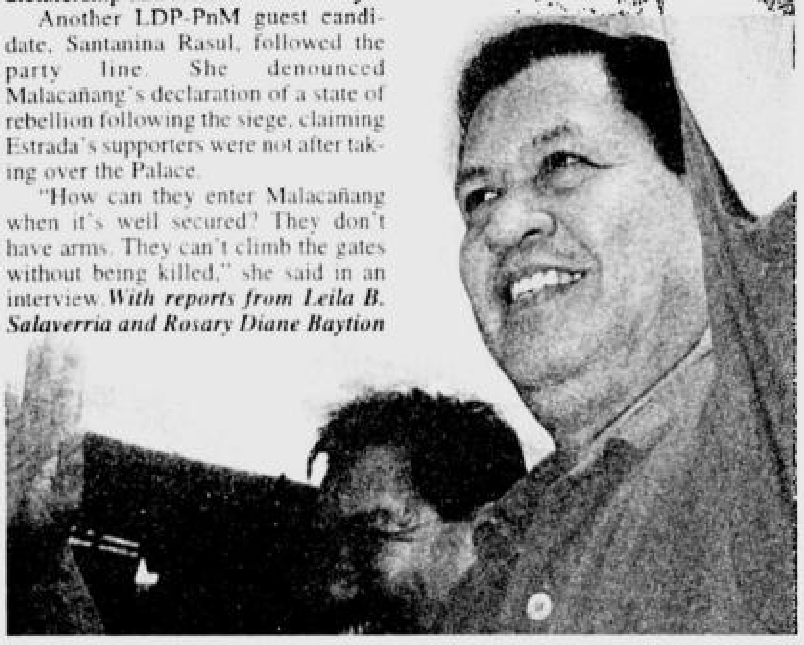
He has, however, refused to join their sorties, giving rise to misgivings from other candidates that De Castro is only campaigning for himself.

In his statement, De Castro even alluded to President Macapagal-Arroyo's accusation against some of his fellow opposition candidates of a "power grab" attempt.

He lamented the "latest attempt at power struggle" which he said "tarnished the legacy of the 1986 (Edsa) People Power (revolt) that toppled a dictatorship and restored democracy."

Another LDP-PnM guest candidate, Santanina Rasul, followed the party line. She denounced Malacañang's declaration of a state of rebellion following the siege, claiming Estrada's supporters were not after taking over the Palace.

"How can they enter Malacañang when it's well secured? They don't have arms. They can't climb the gates without being killed," she said in an interview. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria and Rosary Diane Baytion*



NOLI de Castro campaigning with reelectionist Gov. Emmanuel Piñol of North Cotabato.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Puwersa drive still in disarray

By Dona Pazzibugan

WITH nine days left in the campaign, the opposition's campaign schedule is still in disarray.

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa has reportedly suspended its campaign "indefinitely" as four of its candidates have been ordered arrested for allegedly plotting to overthrow the Macapagal administration.

As of yesterday, the LDP-PnM has yet to come up with a schedule of campaign activities for the final two weeks before the May 14 polls.

According to some campaign organizers, party officials decided to cancel provincial sorties that have been previously scheduled and remain in Metro Manila and nearby Southern Tagalog.

The LDP-PnM was supposed to campaign early this week in Cagayan province, bailiwick of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile who was arrested Wednesday and charged with the non-bailable crime of rebellion.

The opposition was forced to cut short its sorties in Mindanao after the arrest of their leader, former President Joseph Estrada on April 25.

They canceled subsequent sorties in Cebu, Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, Nueva Ecija and Cagayan and instead attended the pro-Estrada rally at the Edsa Shrine from April 25 to May 1.

But in a statement yesterday, LDP spokesman Demaree Raval said their senatorial candidates would go on with their campaign despite the arrest and orders of arrest of some of their candidates.

He said they would concentrate in Metro Manila and nearby Southern Tagalog "to further the(ir) strong hold" on these areas.

He did not, however, say if they had already mapped out a new campaign schedule. Instead, he said they had scheduled rallies in Makati, Marikina, Tondo and Laguna "in the next few days." *With reports from Shirley Hope C. Sebastian*

Postpone May 14 polls, Miriam asks Comelec

REELECTIONIST Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago yesterday asked the Commission on Elections to postpone the May 14 elections, citing Malacanang's declaration of a state of rebellion.

"It's only common sense. If there is a rebellion, then physically there can be no elections. But if there is no rebellion, then (President Macapagal) Arroyo should lift her declaration. This is an either-or proposition. Either lift the declaration, or postpone the elections," Santiago said in a statement.

Santiago, who is facing arrest for allegedly plotting to overthrow the Macapagal administration, protested that she would not be able to campaign once detained.

"At this time of virtual martial law, any election will be a mockery. How can I campaign from prison cell, isolated from the public?" she said.

The former trial judge had said she would resist her arrest without any warrant, threatening to place her arresting officers under citizen's arrest instead.

Santiago surprisingly asked the Comelec to issue a cease-and-desist order against Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, AFP chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and PNP chief Leandro Mendoza to prohibit their warrantless arrest.

She cited section 266 of the Election Code, which prohibits the arrest of candidates without a court-issued warrant of arrest and bail.

Her fellow senatorial candidates in the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, however, were not in favor of her call to postpone the polls.

LDP president Edgardo Angara yesterday expressed confidence that the bloody attack by Estrada's loyalists on Malacañang and their subsequent dispersal will boost the opposition's poll chances.

In her petition before the Comelec yesterday, Santiago cited the warrantless arrests of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile former ambassador Ernesto Maceda as an indication of a "state of terrorism."

She also cited the May 1 violent siege on Malacañang by Estrada's followers was a proof of "state violence."

Lastly, she predicted that there would be a spontaneous indignation rally in protest of the May 1 "millennium Mendiola massacre" and this could force a postponement of the elections.

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CAMPAIGN HOMESTRETCH

PPC to resume 'victory run'

By Christine Avendaño

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

THE PRO-ADMINISTRATION People Power Coalition resumes today its 13-day road trip across the country, confident that the chances of its senatorial candidates to sweep the May 14 polls have been bolstered by the recent turn of events.

"The contrast between the PPC and the Puwersa ng Masa has never been clear than it is now," PPC spokesman Conrado Limcaoco said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

"Our chances (of a 13-0 sweep) have improved because the nature of PnM has revealed itself and that instead of gaining sympathy from the people, it would be gaining ire for agitating and inciting (Estrada supporters) to storm Malacañang."

Limcaoco was referring to the siege of Malacañang by followers of deposed President Joseph Estrada on May 1, which resulted in the death of four persons.

The government has arrested PnM senatorial candidate Juan Ponce Enrile and former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda, who were among those identified to be behind the May 1 attack on Malacañang.

Now being hunted are PnM senatorial bets Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, among others.

Limcaoco said that the PPC candidates would use the final sorties, which will be all in Northern Luzon, to explain to the people what really happened on May 1.

He explained that the opposition had a lot of explaining to do especially since the media in Metro Manila was not given the chance to cover properly the so-called Edsa 3 by Estrada supporters.

Estrada supporters had blocked reporters from covering their gathering at the Edsa Shrine, alleging that they were unfairly reporting the news.

PPC will begin on Saturday its Northern Luzon road trip, the last of four legs of its supposedly 13-day road trip across the country.

The final road trip will last for six days beginning tomorrow and ending on May 10, with senatorial candidates hopping to Cagayan, Tarlac, Isabela, Vigan, Laoag, La Union, Ilocos Sur and Nueva Vizcaya.

The PPC halted its "13-day victory run" on May 1 after the violent attack on Malacañang by Estrada supporters.

Arrest them, texters urge in survey

SENATORS Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan, and other politicians loyal to Joseph Estrada should be arrested, according to an informal survey conducted through text messaging.

In a survey called VOTXT by Bidshot WSD, a wireless applications developer, majority of the respondents believes pro-Estrada senators and candidates should be jailed for their alleged roles in the bloody siege of Malacañang on Monday.

The result ostensibly pointed to Santiago, Honasan, and fellow senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson, who have been accused of inciting tens of thousands of Estrada loyalists to storm the Palace to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign early this week.

Honasan and Lacson, both included in the government's hold departure order, are still being hunted by authorities as of yesterday.

As of 6:20 p.m. yesterday, a total of 5,905 cellular phone users had participated in the informal survey, 88 percent or 5,196.4 of which favored the arrest.

Only 12 percent or 708 of the respondents disagreed, the survey showed.

The informal survey was launched through text messaging or short message service (SMS) on Wednesday afternoon, a day after Estrada rioters stormed the Palace.

A message with the question "Do u agree that the pro-Erap senators be arrested?" was randomly sent to cellular phone users. *Christian. V. Esguerra*

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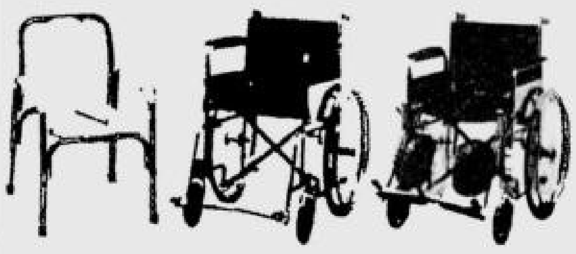

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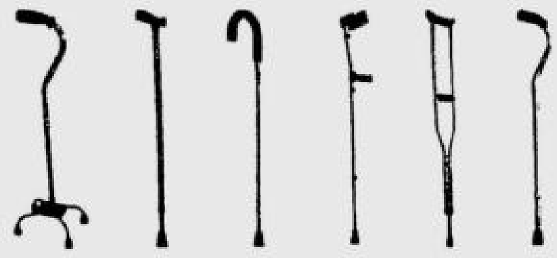

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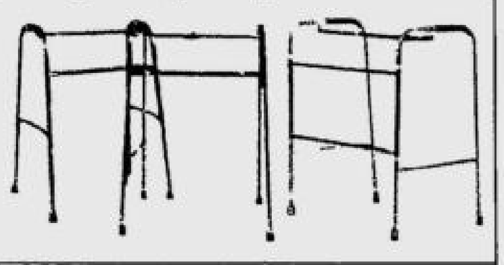

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1038 Series of 2001

'I don't want my father to be another Dacer'

(From page A1)

the country will be here to protect us so that we will be able to render impartial decisions and our fears will be controlled," Garchitorena said.

"The trial hasn't even started but they are already harassing us," Sanchez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

"Considering the sensitivity and the media hype being given to the case of the former president, the life of Justice Badoy is now in danger," Urieta told reporters.

Urieta, who rushed to the scene at 5 a.m., is coordinating with the Philippine National Police, which is assessing the situation to determine if the other justices also need protection.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said it was not yet clear whether the attack was connected with Tuesday's bloody pro-Estrada march on the Palace.

Smell of smoke

Sanchez said she was awakened between 4 and 5 a.m. yesterday by the smell of smoke in her apartment in Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City.

"When I woke up, our living room was already filled with smoke and the aircon was on fire," she said.

Outside the apartment, she discovered that the air-conditioner had caught fire from two burning throw pillows placed beneath the unit.

Urieta said that Sanchez told police that she saw a taxi speeding away with several unidentified men inside, minutes after the discovery of the burning pillows.

She told the INQUIRER that when she opened the door, she found that an outer metal door was held open with a flowerpot. The gate was also left open.

She put out the fire with a garden hose.

Sanchez, who is also her father's executive secretary, said her father "lives in Makati but since this house is nearer to Sandiganbayan, he sometimes spends the night here."

"When he does," she added, "I sleep on the sofa" on the ground floor.

"Luckily, I slept on the sofa in the sala. If not, the fire would have spread without me or my maids' knowing about it," she added.

'Very odd'

"It's very odd that this happened here. We've just been here for four months and we have no enemies in our neighborhood," Sanchez said.

Urieta said the judge had received anonymous death threats since he was assigned last month to handle the plunder charge against Estrada.

But Sanchez said neither she nor her father received any threatening phone calls before the arson attempt.

Police escorts

Urieta said Badoy, a senior justice who never had to use bodyguards before, would be given a contingent of police escorts.

Badoy, 69, is the acting chair of the Sandiganbayan's 3rd division, which has been assigned to handle the plunder case against Estrada and several others. The judge has set a June 27 arraignment for Estrada.

The Central Police District's Scene of the Crime Operations (Soco) team searched the yard for evidence after Sanchez called authorities.

The CPD stationed two policemen plus a mobile car to guard Sanchez's home.

"We've asked for additional security. We want people to know about the harassment that is going on. I don't want my father to be another Dacer," Sanchez said, referring to murdered publicist Salvador Dacer, who is believed to have been killed for political reasons.

'Suspicious'

Sanchez said she saw two cars "suspiciously parked in front" of her home Wednesday afternoon.

One was a brown box-type Mitsubishi Lancer with heavily tinted windows which arrived around 1:30 p.m., she said.

"I was about to go to the office when I noticed (the driver) stop in front of the house and turn off his engine," Sanchez said.

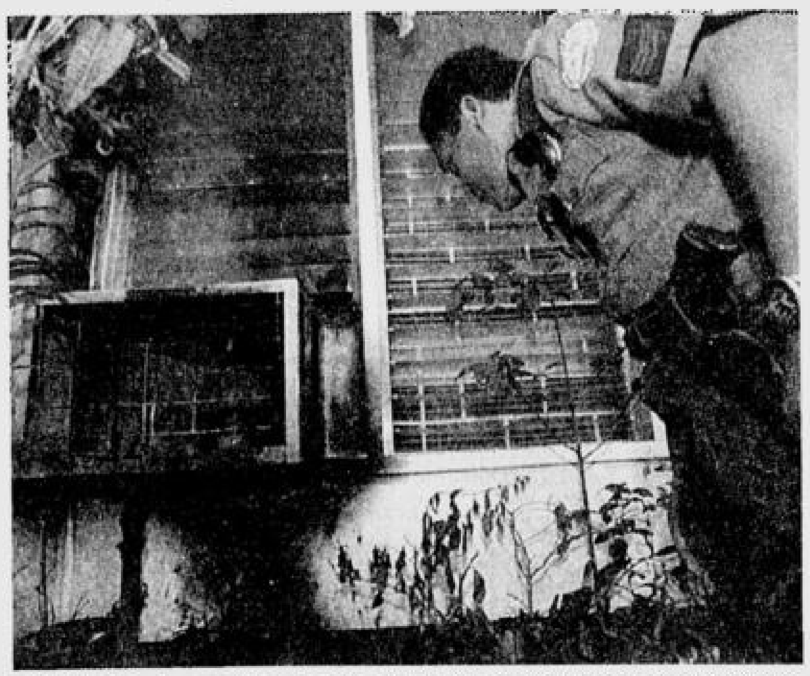
"I stared at him and made sure he knew I was staring at him but he did not leave. I mean, it was past noon and it must have been hot inside. But he did not get out or drive away," she added.

Sanchez said she decided to leave, and her son later told her that the car left several minutes later.

But around 4 p.m., her son saw an old taxi park in front of their home. It stayed there for two hours.

"An hour before the fire, I also heard something like a big bike noisily pass IN FRONT OF our house three times," Sanchez also said.

She noted, however, that her apartment is in front of a restaurant. "Bistro Torillo is in front of us but they have their own parking space (but) cars also usually park in front of our house when there is no other parking space," she said. *With a report from AFP*



DAMAGED air-conditioner caused by a fire inside the house of Christine Badoy-Sanchez, daughter and executive secretary of Sandiganbayan Justice Anacleto Badoy who is the presiding judge at the trial for plunder charges of deposed President Estrada. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Miriam to arrest officers

(From page A1)

The reelectionist senator yesterday declared that she would resist any attempt by authorities to arrest and detain her for her supposed role in instigating Joseph Estrada's loyalists to march from the Edsa Shrine to Malacañang to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down.

She told reporters at the Commission on Elections office in Intramuros, Manila, where she filed a petition seeking a postponement of the May 14 elections, that she would pull a "citizen's arrest" on her arresting officers for supposed violation of Section 266 of the Omnibus Election Code.

Asked how she intended to arrest officers like Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, now intelligence chief of the Philippine National Police, Santiago replied: "Watch me!"

The action could be as exciting as an Estrada movie.

Agence France Presse reported that Santiago displayed a 9-mm pistol on her desk and said in a television interview: "I will defend myself. I will not come quietly when they come to take me away."

Among those who might attempt to do that is a 100-member "civilian arresting team" formed yesterday by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC).

The VACC said the team was formed to help authorities locate and arrest those suspected of fomenting a rebellion against the Macapagal administration.

It is divided into small units composed of 10 members each, and its targets are, among others, Santiago and her co-candidates under the Puwersa ng Masa, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and ex-PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, the VACC said.

The anti-crime group has also set up two 24-hour hotlines, (400-0715 and 0917-3553744) to receive information from the public on the suspects' whereabouts.

If ever, revenge would be particularly sweet for VACC president and chair Dante Jimenez and vice president and spokesperson Lauro Vizconde, who both claimed to having been persecuted by pro-Estrada personalities.

'State terrorism'

Santiago asked the Comelec to postpone the May 14 polls allegedly because "state violence, state terrorism and *force majeure*" had made impossible the holding of honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

She said state terrorism had resulted from the President's allegedly unconstitutional declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila, which allowed the military and the police to make warrantless arrests.

"It is only common sense. If there is a rebellion, then physically there can be no elections. But if there is no rebellion, then Ms Macapagal should lift her declaration. This is an either-or proposition—either lift the declaration or postpone the elections," she said.

She also said the "illegal" declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila also affected other parts of the country, and, thus, the postponement of the elections should be national in scope.

"There is a murmur of protest going on right now. Soon, that murmur will turn into a torment of protest in the very near future," she added.

Santiago also said her arrest would be a violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

"Between Ms Macapagal's order authorizing warrantless arrests and the Election Code provision prohibiting the arrest of candidates, it is the (latter) that should prevail," she said, adding:

"A law passed by Congress prevails over a mere executive order by the President."

Santiago threatened to withdraw from the polls if the Comelec denied her petition, saying that she would not participate in "the mockery of our election laws."

She also asked the Comelec:

- To order Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, the Armed Forces and the PNP to cease and desist from making more warrantless arrests and issuing hold-departure orders.
- To investigate and prosecute violations of the election law allegedly committed by Reyes, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza and others, "and to give priority to these cases."

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo had no comment on Santiago's petition

'Reversal of fortunes'

"There has been quite a dramatic reversal of fortunes," a grinning Jimenez told the INQUIRER in an interview.

At the height of Estrada's impeachment trial last January, Jimenez, along with two women, were ordered to leave the Senate Hall on Santiago's complaint that they had been looking at her "provocatively."

"Personally, I feel that I was vindicated by (recent events)," said Jimenez, who described his and Rosanna Aboitiz and Bettina Fores' expulsion from the impeachment court as the "shame and the injustice done to us."

Jimenez earlier opposed the administration's plan to have Santiago serve as "state witness" against the suspected instigators. The plan has since been discarded.

"I think she was the most guilty among the other alleged coup plotters. Of all the speakers (at the loyalist rallies at Edsa), she did the most in agitating the crowd and urging them to invade Malacañang," he said.

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- Public Affairs Officer, National Movement of Young Legislators (NMYL) Foundation
- President, Philippine Councilors League (PCL), Metro Manila Chapter (1995-98)
- AB Economics, UST (1977)
- Bachelor of Laws, Magna Cum Laude/ Valedictorian, UST (1981)
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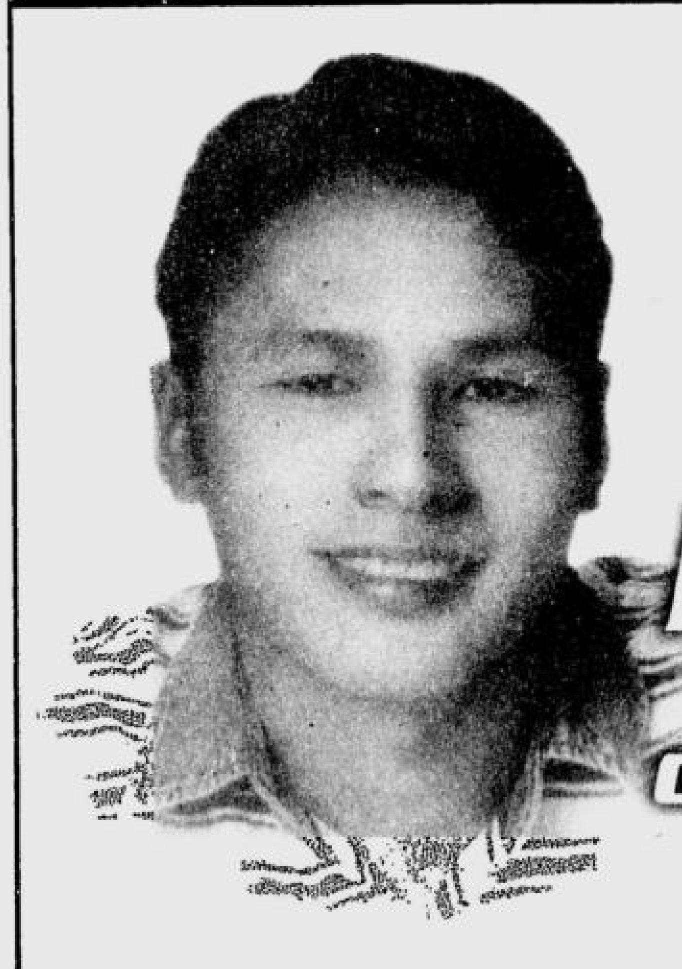

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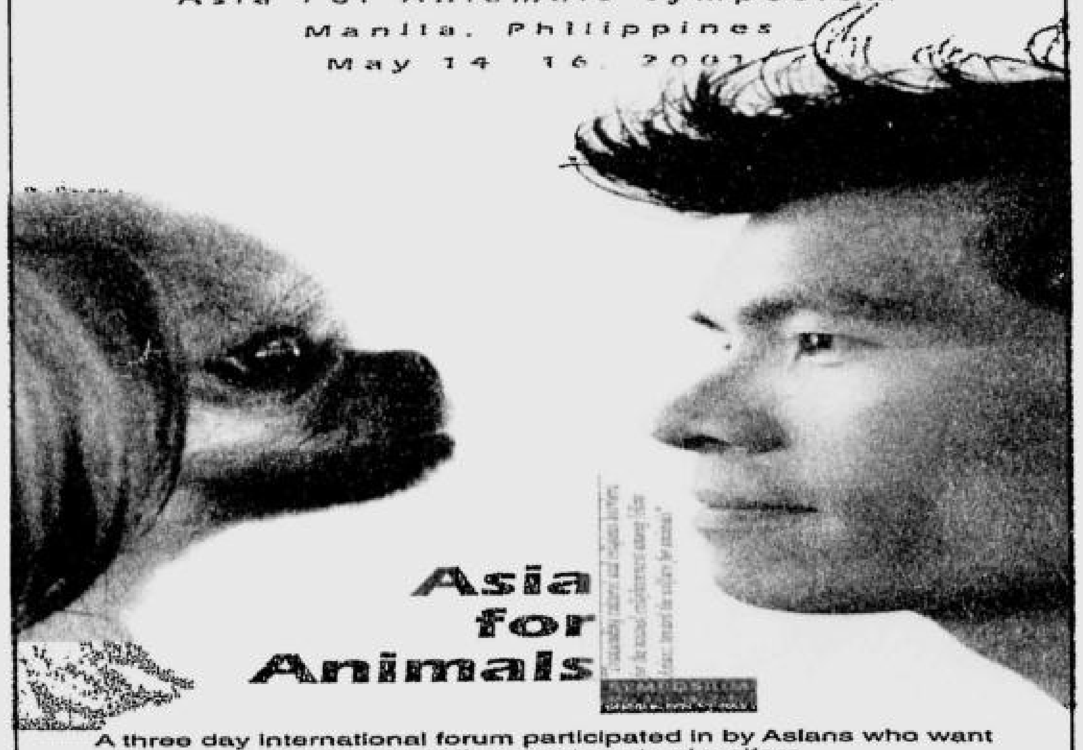

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Breakthrough in Oslo talks

**By TJ Burgonio
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PRELIMINARY talks in the resumed peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the communist National Democratic Front ended Monday with both sides expressing optimism about the final outcome of the talks.

Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government peace panel who planed in Wednesday night from Oslo, Norway, site of the talks, reported some breakthroughs in the negotiations which aim to settle a 32-year conflict.

Despite initial disagreements, both sides reached a consensus on the implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CAHRIHL), a contentious issue prior to the collapse of talks in 1999, Bello said.

"The panels succeeded in breaking the old issue. There is now a consensus on CAHRIHL, particularly on the operation of the joint monitoring committees," Bello told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The other members of the government panel arrived with Bello.

Best efforts

Luis Jalandoni, NDF panel chair, said in a statement posted on the Internet from his home in the Netherlands that both sides had agreed to exert their best efforts at forging the Comprehensive Agreement on Social and Economic Reforms in six months and completing the four substantive topics of the peace talks in 18 months.

He said both panels signed the "Oslo Joint Communiqué" which declared that they had successfully resumed negotiations.

The communiqué also said the two parties had exchanged documents reinstating the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees and the approval of their respective principals of the March 9, 2001 Joint Statement.

The Joint Statement affirms the validity and binding character of the 10 bilateral agreements previously entered into by both sides. The two panels also requested the Norwegian government, which hosted the resumption of the peace talks, to host the next round of negotiations beginning June 9, 2001.

Jalandoni reported that the two parties had expressed their determination to implement the CARHRIHL "as far as practicable."

Political prisoners

"We also pressed for the accelerated release of political prisoners, the repeal of repressive decrees and the return of internal refugees to their homes and land," he said.

He said the NDF also brought up the need to respond to the calls of various sectors for a P125 across-the-board wage increase, a P3,000 monthly increase for government employees, a stop to contractualization, the re-employment of dismissed workers and the dissolution of regional wage boards.

The two panels gave Assistant Secretary General of the Royal Norwegian Foreign Ministry Johan Lovald a copy of the joint resolution. Bello said the government was eyeing the possibility of shortening the 18-month time frame set for the resolution of three remaining substantive issues—social economic reforms (SER), political and constitutional reforms and the end of hostilities.

"The consensus is to try to reduce the six months of discussion per substantive issue to a little less," he said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, chair of the government's reciprocal working committee, said that both panels also achieved a major breakthrough in the preliminary talks on the SER.

After exchanging two drafts, the two sides came to terms "on how to proceed with the discussion on the SER," he said.

"While what we talked about was only procedural in nature, it was important i n the sense that a timetable has been set and members of certain committees have been tasked to handle specific issues," Braganza said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Friday, May 4, 2001
3rd Week of Easter**

1st Reading: **Acts 9:1-20**
Gospel: **Jn 6:52-59**

The Jews were arguing among themselves, "How can this man give us flesh to eat?" So Jesus replied, "Truly, I say to you, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood live with eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day.

My flesh is really food and my blood is drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, live in me and I in them. Just as the Father, who is life, sent me and I have life from the Father, so whoever eats me will have life from me. This is the *bread, which came from heaven;* unlike that of your ancestors, who ate and later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

Jesus spoke in this way in Capernaum when he taught them in the synagogue.

Commentary

In the Old Testament, the term "flesh and blood" refers to human life. Thus, to eat of Jesus' flesh and to drink of his blood is to accept the whole living Jesus. Now since Jesus has assumed unto himself all human beings, nay all of creation through his humanity, to accept him, therefore, implies to accept all he has assumed. Moreover, what he has assumed is given an assurance of a definite future. When God raised up his Son from the dead, forever he raised up in principle the entire humanity and creation in him. This is the deep basis of our respect for human persons and our care for creation, all destined for a glorious transformation.

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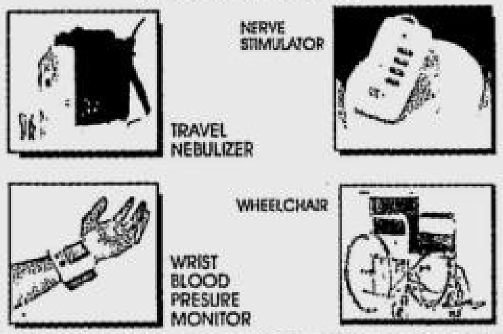
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Role of judges—Judges ought to be mindful of the crucial role they play in keeping the flames of justice alive and forever burning. Cognizant of this sacred task, judges are duty-bound to vigilantly and conscientiously man the wheels of justice as it grinds through eternity. In a sense, judges are revered as modern-day sentinels, who, like their erudite of forerunners, must never slumber, so to speak, in the hour of service to their countrymen. For as lady justice never sleeps, so must the gallant men tasked to guard her domain. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Buena, Second Division, Report on the Judicial Audit Conducted in the RTC Branch 20, Manila, A.M. No. 00-1-48-RTC, October 12, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

3-DAY SALE
(May 4, 5, 6, 2001)



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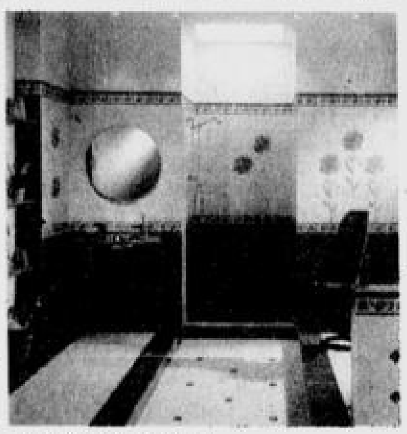

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Nightmare

EDITORIAL

THE OPPOSITION is trying to salvage precious political points from the horrible disaster that was the violent attempt by supporters of the deposed president, Joseph Estrada, to seize Malacañang Tuesday. Faced with a potentially crippling backlash in the May 14 elections for the mayhem wreaked by the mob that fought government forces near the Palace, opposition leaders are painting themselves as the innocent victims of a vindictive administration. After washing their hands of any responsibility for the Labor Day violence, they are now denouncing as an overreaction President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a "state of rebellion."

LDP president Edgardo Angara, who is seeking a Senate seat under the banner of the pro-Estrada Puwersa ng Masa, said the declaration and the arrest of several opposition leaders were only meant to "silence the opposition and the critics of the government." What happened near Malacañang could not be called an uprising, he said, because the people were unarmed. Sen. Blas F. Ople, one of the 11 senators who voted to suppress the introduction of damning evidence during Estrada's impeachment trial, said Ms Macapagal was imagining things. "There is nothing to show that anybody had planned to overthrow the government and install a military junta," he said. "It's only a figment of her imagination." Former Press Secretary Ricardo Puno, another opposition senatorial candidate, complained that the administration was "using a howitzer to kill a fly."

If that was a fly that descended on the seat of government last Tuesday, it was the most destructive insect the world has ever known. That fly killed one police officer and injured scores of police and military men and civilians. It burned and destroyed P100 million worth of property. And it almost overran the seat of government.

The opposition has made much of the fact that the government cannot point to any single individual who brandished or fired a gun among the tens of thousands of demonstrators who stormed the Palace gates. That's a fine legal point that is obviously intended to lay the basis for getting off the hook those who have been ordered arrested for inciting to rebellion, including the three opposition senators who are seeking reelection: Juan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan and Miriam Defensor-Santiago. The legal definition of rebellion is very restrictive: "rising publicly and taking up arms against the government."

But whatever the courts may finally decide to call it, what happened Tuesday was not a harmless and innocent stroll into Malacañang grounds. That violent attack on the Palace was intended to bring down the legitimate President and install in her place the man who relinquished the presidency when peaceful demonstrators marched to the same place to demand his resignation.

Tuesday's siege was not the result of an instantaneous combustion. That mob was incited to march to Malacañang and drive Ms Macapagal out of power by some of the opposition leaders who have been ordered arrested. Those troublemakers might not have carried firearms, but they came prepared to commit mayhem with their knives, clubs and stones. And they marched and attacked from all points of entry to the Palace, a clear indication that the attack was planned and coordinated by someone.

Is the opposition saying all this never happened? Are we supposed to just blot out of our memory the terrifying and bloody events of last Tuesday, like a bad nightmare? That was a national nightmare all right, but it was for real. To forget it, as the opposition suggests, is to ensure that we will live it again.

Poker game

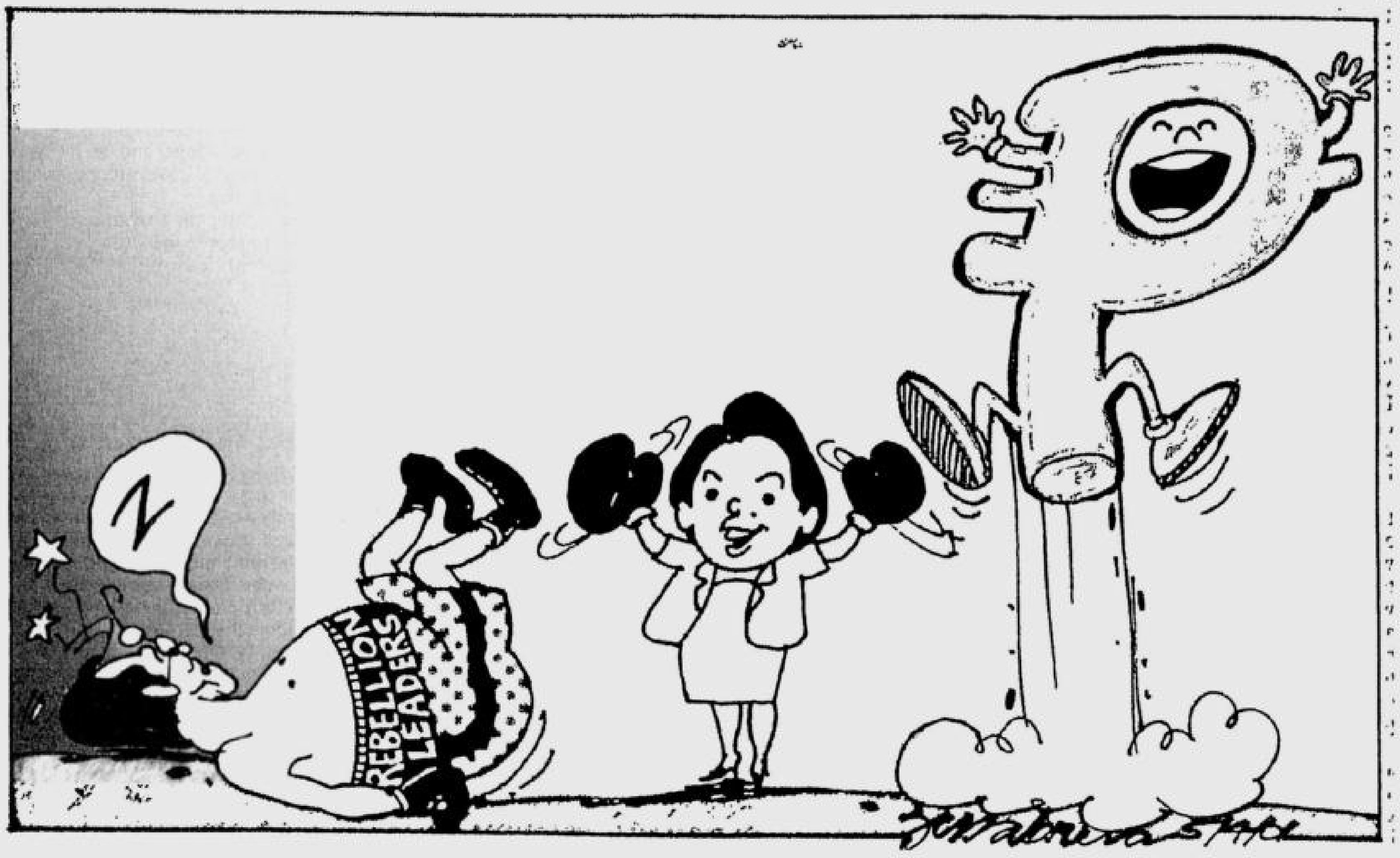
FOREIGN COMMENT

PRESIDENT (George W.) Bush has decided: The United States will only fulfill Taiwan's desire for weapons in part. Washington will not deliver the most extravagant articles on the shopping list—for China's sake.

Yet Beijing protested immediately as expected. No one is completely satisfied, but neither can anyone really complain. The poker game continues.

Since the airplane affair has come to an end, Washington and Beijing have made an effort to show restraint. Each side views itself as the victor in an international test of strength. This makes it even more important for each side to assert its position.

Die Welt (Hamburg, Germany)



Lessons

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DID "Edsa III" represent a class war?

I got asked that question several times over the past week or so. And my answer was always, yes and no.

No, it was not a class war in terms of its stated reasons or motivations. The one thing that sparked that explosion of protest, as articulated by the people there, was that Erap, who was one of the poor, had been humiliated, oppressed and abused. If he hadn't been one of the poor, they would not have done that to him. They would have accorded him preferential treatment. Proof of that, they said, was that Cory and Ramos, who were bigger crooks but representatives of the rich, were being accorded preferential treatment.

Now, the notion that Erap was humiliated, oppressed and abused may be arguable—many of those who thought Erap was guilty and should be jailed were themselves wrung by the sight of Erap being fingerprinted and photographed like a common thief—but the notion that Erap is poor, or one of the poor, is not. He was never poor, is not poor and will never be poor. Unless you dump him in Muntinlupa along with the other real-life Asiong Salongas—but his kin, which include a half-dozen full-fledged mistresses, will not be poor. If Erap was ever poor, it was only in being poor in character, poor in spirit and poor in taste.

But "Edsa III" was a class war in ways that went deeper than its expressions of undying devotion to a mythically poor Erap. It was a class war in that it drew its power from the very real class divide in society, a society rived into a few spectacularly rich and a teeming spectacularly poor. All the politicians before martial law, including a prospective president named Ninoy Aquino, used to call this the "social volcano" and had the most vivid things to say about how the molten rock inside it had been pushed to its throat by centuries of neglect and was near to being spat. It did explode, in the revolution of the 1970s and 1980s, ignited in no small way by martial law.

That social volcano has been dormant over the last two decades, though it has rumbled like Mayon and threatened to rain fire off and on. For good reason: the divide has not gotten smaller, it has gotten bigger. The poor have not gotten more visible and more heard, they have gotten more invisible and more voiceless. They are the people we pass by each day, children sniffing rugby, arms and legs and bodies jumbled up in cardboard boxes, which they call home, like a Picasso painting, blotches in the rain tapping on the windows of our cars with bony fingers, people we pass by but do not see. These are the people who exist in the outer fringes of our consciousness, or memory, children who keen in the night while their stomachs rumble, toothless men and women selling cigarettes on sidewalks, who open their mouths to the roar of engines and the pealing of Church bells, the demented and depraved who shout themselves hoarse from the rooftops of buildings before hurling themselves to the ground without parachutes, people who speak but whom we cannot hear. And there are more of them, except that we never recalled when they started growing.

Should we wonder why, when they have been stoked to fury by the sight of seemingly one of their own being oppressed, when they have found the opportunity to be seen and heard courtesy of false prophets, they would do what they did? It is the social volcano exploding, and producing as ruinous a result as Mayon in one of its more unpredictable fits.

What happened last Tuesday was a terrible tragedy. But what would be even more terribly tragic is to dismiss "Edsa III" as an aberration, an atavism, an out-and-out irrationality. What would be even more tragic is to go into "triumphalist" mode, heaping scorn on the "*bayaran*" that flocked to Edsa, and reducing them to the hooligans that rioted in Mendiola. Which we're also seeing today. I have no problem about coming down hard on the irresponsible people who drove that mob to Mendiola: I myself would like to see them prosecuted and, where found guilty, jailed. Juan Ponce Enrile in particular has gotten away with murder (which may not be completely metaphorical) for so long, it's time he got his just desserts. And I have no problem with drum-beating, or shouting to the world once again, the moral superiority of "Edsa II," which is right and justifiable.

But I do have a problem with chest-beating, with sugary songs about *magkaisa*, with pious exultation about the forces of good triumphing over the forces of evil. I do have a problem with reducing the two or three million people who massed at Edsa, excluding the busloads of people who were turned back by soldiers at checkpoints in the north, to "Erap loyalists" who would wither away the way the Marcos loyalists withered away. This is more than a "loyalist" phenomenon, it will not go away by being ignored.

We have to open our eyes to the size of that crowd, we have to open our ears to the cries of that crowd. At the very least because not all of what they were saying was mythical and emotional and superstitious. Some of what they were saying was perfectly rational. Chief of them, their call for past leaders who have been accused of corruption to be prosecuted as well—Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos at the head of them. Why only Erap? The curious thing about "Edsa III," quite incidentally, was that it wasn't just directed against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, it was directed against Jaime Cardinal Sin, Cory and Ramos. That perception isn't irrational either: it is based on the very real influence, if not control, of Sin, Cory and Ramos, over Ms Macapagal's administration, which is what gives it an elitist sheen. Indeed, which raises the more fundamental, and very rational, question of whom Edsa I and Edsa II were fought for. There is no doubt they were fought by the people: But whom were they fought for? For Cory? For Sin? For Ramos? For Ms Macapagal? For the rich?

But infinitely more than that, we must open our eyes and our ears to the throng that gathered at Edsa because of the non-mythical and ineluctable reality of their invisibility and muteness, an invisibility and muteness that, like volcanoes, produce catastrophic results when they blaze forth with fire and roar into visibility and audibleness. What happened in Mendiola last Tuesday was a terrible tragedy. But what would even be more terribly tragic is for the people who scorn myth and superstition to be imprisoned by their own myths and superstitions. What would be even more terribly tragic is for the people who, in their eagerness to punish the enemies of Edsa I and Edsa II, end up punishing the very people they fought Edsa I and Edsa II for.

What would be even more terribly tragic is for the people who won a resounding victory to show they never deserved it.

* * *

Some readers have complained that they cannot find my talk, "Tongues on fire," where I deal with this at length. It's in the May 1 edition of Inquirer Online (www.inq7.net), under "Viewpoints."

Constitutional rigor

WINDMILLS

Jerry Barican

IT is difficult to write opinion on the "state of rebellion" when the facts, or at least part of them, are yet unfolding.

Difficult but not impossible. There is after all no requirement in the Constitution, unlike that in cases of the suspension of the writ's privilege or martial law, for a declaration by the President of a "state of rebellion." It is the fact of a rebellion or invasion, not its formal declaration, that permits the chief executive to call out the Armed Forces to meet the threat. If there were no actual rebellion, a declaration would be legally useless; if there were one, a formal declaration of its existence would be explanatory at best.

Normally, a soldier cannot arrest a civilian, although a policeman can arrest a soldier. But in extraordinary situations, as last Tuesday's, the President may call on the military to assist the civil authorities keep order. This the President already did by summoning military reinforcements to Mendiola long before the "declaration" was made. This made the arrests of civilian rioters by the military forces assisting the police lawful.

Can the finding by the President that an actual rebellion exists give the authorities the power to make warrantless arrests for political offenses like rebellion? A general finding of a state of rebellion would not. We have had 60 years of non-stop rebellion by communist and Muslim insurgents. This general situation, which poses no imminent threat to the government's overthrow, does not make futile and farcical all the constitutional rules on the requirements for warrants.

A specific situation might, but only for as long as is actually needed by reason of an imminent danger. If there were ongoing riots in front of the Palace or a military coup were in progress or were winding down, it would be ridiculous to assert that military forces in hot pursuit have no powers of arrest without a warrant. But as soon as the imminent danger disappears in front of the Palace, so does the power to arrest without a warrant. There is, as you can see, logic to this seeming legal madness.

When the imminent danger subsides, as it clearly has over the past 48 hours, the government's claim to a continuing authority to arrest without a warrant is both constitutionally tenuous at best and a legal precedent of great danger. Today's government will sooner or later be tomorrow's opposition. What is done scrupulously today may be done unscrupulously some other time. As in all things, moderation and reason should prevail. Warrantless arrests without bail are as much an inherent threat to democracy as are mobs and rebellions.

The claim therefore that "rebellion" is a continuing state is neither here nor there, for otherwise the continuing state of other rebellions and insurgencies, never mind the continuing "invasion" of Scarborough Shoal or Mischief Reef by China, would be an excuse for a perpetual suspension of the Bill of Rights. The government's lawyers need to have a little more intellectual rigor in these matters.

In cases of rebellion, where the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended, or even when martial law is declared, the Constitution provides checks. For instance, there is conflicting language in the Constitution on the matter of bail. In general, it grants the right to bail universally except in cases punishable by capital punishment and when the evidence of guilt is strong. Rebellion is not a capital offense. But the Constitution also provides specific and separate rules on bail for rebellion cases.

It says that the exercise of emergency powers, for instance when the writ is suspended, applies specifically "only to persons judicially charged for rebellion." There are no extraordinary powers for the government over those charged with other crimes, like sedition. It requires that such individuals arrested or detained for rebellion be judicially charged "within three days" or be released. Finally, it says that "the right to bail shall not be impaired even when the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended."

Since by the specific language of the Constitution such cases only apply to people arrested, detained, or judicially charged for rebellion and no other, the effect is to give a right to bail in all cases of rebellion as an exception to the general rule, even if Congress has meanwhile increased the penalty for such a crime to life or even death, and even if martial law itself is declared.

This is in clear consonance with the democratic theory enshrined in the American Declaration of Independence that the people have a sovereign right to replace its government. In short, Bonifacios, Rizals, or even cuckoos should not be executed or given life for a failed rebellion. The Constitution forged by People Power in 1986 gave special protection to those charged with political offenses. This was proper at the time of its forging when memories of the legal abuses of the Marcos-era regime were freshest.

More immediately important than even these legal and controversial issues is that the government lay bare before the people the full extent of its case that the events of the week past were not spontaneous but planned, constituted not a mere riot but part of a larger rebellion with a military component that never surfaced, were not the action of a misguided splinter group but part of a larger conspiracy.

Since we are not privy to this information, or its lack, it is difficult in the absence of more evidence to confirm the most extreme version of events. Intelligence reports, while useful, are not enough as they can be manufactured, as they were under Ferdinand Marcos, to suppress legitimate dissent and arrest the legitimate opposition. They can also simply be erroneous. The public should be taken into the government's confidence.

There is also something profoundly disturbing about those who can weep over the Bishop's forgiveness of Valjean's theft of church silver in "Les Misérables" then go out and wax with middle-class indignation over the conduct of the poor at the Edsa Shrine. We need both a firm hand of law and an understanding heart. Otherwise, the Peronism in the air will grow.

There is a place for legitimate and lawful opposition in a democracy. Shutting it out and lumping it together with unlawful conspiracy removes the middle ground where disagreements are politically resolved. At times like these, distinctions are ever more important: those between lawful and unlawful conduct, between legitimate and illegitimate opposition. *Festina lente:* make haste slowly.

Now the fight over semantics

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

WHILE lawyers, as usual, are quibbling over whether the May 1 storming of Malacañang by the mob, inflamed by pro-Estrada elite politicians, is rebellion or not, evidence is unfolding that the assault was executed with signs of tactical military planning.

The mass at Edsa started the march to the Palace at 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday with no single column moving toward Mendiola or J.P. Laurel. The hordes took different routes; some marched in small streets on which there were no police barricades. Between 3 and 4 a.m., they all fed and merged into two main columns—about 50,000 of them—pushing beyond Mendiola. The first wave hit Gate 7 and tried to push its way through the iron gates.

There was the element of surprise. The signal for the march was issued in the small hours of the morning after the government had thought that the withdrawal of Iglesia ni Cristo followers from the Edsa rally on Monday evening had turned the tide of the crisis. Although the government had expected the march on Saturday or Sunday evening, it let its guard down after the INC withdrawal.

The attackers were armed with tear gas, which they used to overcome the thin police barricade at Wilson Street, San Juan. Their main columns were spearheaded by dump trucks that cleared the way for hordes on foot. The mobs were armed with knives, rocks, *dos por dos* wooden clubs, and some had *paltik* handguns, lead pipes and bottles of gin in their backpacks. The purpose of the gin was to pump them up. Laboratory tests on a number of rioters at Mendiola showed them positive for drugs.

My information is that among the mob were armed men who constituted the advance unit of armed reserves who would pour into the Palace gate once it was breached by the human wave of lumpen cannon fodder.

I am citing these facts to illustrate how some wooly headed lawyers have been deluded into claiming that there was no rebellion and the rioting was merely "lawless disturbance" by undirected rampaging mobs, or that an attack on the seat of power without the use of firearms is not a rebellion.

The inflammatory rhetoric by opposition politicians during six days of rallies at Edsa in which they were fired up to "*sugod*" the Palace was not merely part of election rhetoric in the run-up to the May elections. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago was heard many times to incite the rallies with such inflammatory words as *"Handa na ba kayong mamatay? Ako'y handa na!"*

The replay of the videotapes of the rally speeches provides damning evidence that the *masa* mobs were incited to a frenzy that culminated in the attack on May 1. Those rallies created a beast stirred up to attack the Palace. They attacked the center of power. Whether you call it rebellion or some other word, and however primitive their weapons, there was an attack on the seat of power, and the debate over the phrase declaring a "state or rebellion" is nothing less than semantic calisthenics lawyers love to indulge in.

When there is an attack on the seat of power by whatever means, the government has the duty to defend itself and the state with all the means at its command. The means include calling in the army and taking legal measures to arrest suspected ring leaders. The opposition politicians who incited the mob to march to the Palace with the call to topple the government and restore deposed President Estrada are challenging the legal basis of the warrantless arrest. But while the seat of power is under attack and has to be protected from possible further attacks, the government can't wait for the courts to decide whether its responses are legal or not. The response was to crush an immediate attack, disperse the mobs and immobilize suspected ring leaders by arresting them.

The opposition leaders have opened a new issue to divert attention from their responsibility in inciting the *masa* to attack the Palace while they stayed out of sight. They argue that the arrest orders and proclamation of a state of a rebellion are acts to "silence critics" and "cripple" the allies of Estrada in the May elections. They have gone to court seeking to cancel the acts of government in defense of the state. What they are in effect seeking is to tie the hands of government from defending itself. They want a government that will not use its powers to defend itself because doing so would be "illegal and unconstitutional"—in other words, a government that is everybody's punching bag.

When they were inciting the crowd, composed mainly of the poor, to topple the sitting government, it hardly occurred to them that they were abusing the freedom of assembly and speech.

Sen. Blas Ople, in particular, raises the specter of martial law saying that the nation is "trembling" with fright over the menace of a new dictatorship. The only trembling I see is the trembling of Ople's hands, probably due to Parkinson's disease.

To emphasize how the poor have again been exploited by their elite leaders, a number of the rioters have been charged with offenses arising from the rioting. And yet, the elite leaders who have washed their hands of responsibility for inflaming the mobs are seeking immunity from arrest by raising constitutional issues. The *masa* was sent to the firing line, some of its members were hurt and the leaders have abandoned them again. The mobs should wise up to the fact that when they are incited to violence by elite rabble-rousers, they should turn on them.

Human rights zealots decry the "excessive" response by the police and Army to the human wave attack and to the "overreaction" of military presence around the Palace. I have seen rioting in democratic countries, and the casualties in last Tuesday's rioting were relatively light. In fact, the security forces exercised extreme restraint and many citizens have seen this reaction as a sign of weakness. Mobs don't respect weakness. The only thing they respect is force. The most important thing in this crisis is to defend the state. A weak state that can't impose its decisions authoritatively invites anarchy and chaos. We saw that last Tuesday.

Getting at the rot

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

A FRIEND and I were talking about how much we enjoyed dropping by the Power Station mall at Rockwell in Makati. "It's like going on vacation from being a Filipino," I remarked with a laugh. "That's it!" my friend said. "I'd long been wondering why I enjoyed the place so much, and you've put your finger on it. You are so right."

I have another friend who plots her route to work and back each day so that she passes only through "pleasant" sights. "Life is hard enough as it is," she sighs, "I don't need to have our poverty thrown in my face each day."

But whatever subterfuge we of the comfortable classes employed to deny the realities of our society, none of that worked in the early hours of May 1. On our TV screens, with the full startling power of live video, was the sharp and deepening divisions in Filipino society for all the world to see. There, in our bedrooms and living rooms, were elements of what have been derisively called the "Great Unwashed," bare-chested angry youths, hurling rocks, wielding wooden stakes, whooping with every missile hurled and window broken.

It felt like someone had rammed his fist through my home's painted walls, exposing decaying beams overrun by termites.

The rot beneath the smiling façade of Filipino civility has been exposed, and it would not do to simply paper it over. Not if we don't want to wake up suddenly some other morning to find another savage mob about to breach Malacañang's walls. We may not be so lucky next time.

* * *

AS THE CYNICAL leadership of the Erap political machine knew, there is much resentment and despair boiling up beneath the paper-thin surface of civic amity. All that was needed was someone to stir the pot, to turn up the heat, before watching the poor's pent-up frustration and sense of betrayal boil over.

And how disgusting that the pot should be stirred by sympathy for a man who's responsible, more than anyone else, for further impoverishing those already poor. Why can't they seem to "connect the dots?" Why can't they link Erap's raid on public coffers and favors granted to cronies and mistresses to their own deteriorating condition?

I refuse to call those five days at the Edsa Shrine "People Power III," for in motive, conduct and spirit it was a far cry from the "People Power" exercises that preceded it. But I must agree with Jim Paredes, an Edsa stalwart if there ever was one, when he writes that there is a link between "People Power II" and this recent manifestation.

"The paradox of it all is Edsa II seized the power, but 'Edsa III' has (shown us) what the agenda of government and society should be," Paredes writes. "And that is to address poverty and justice with resolve and determination. In some strange, though admittedly grotesque way, Edsa II and III have some connection."

* * *

THE EVENTS of May 1 were very much on everybody's mind yesterday, on the first day of a consultation-workshop convened by the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). President Macapagal is set to report to the nation today on the "First 100 Days" accomplishments of her administration, and the consultation-workshop was meant to elicit meaningful feedback from representatives of civil society, especially the so-called "basic" sectors, on the government's anti-poverty thrust and programs.

Given the way the Edsa massing and its bloody, chaotic end highlighted the jagged divide between the classes, it would be no exaggeration to say that the NAPC's plans could very well determine history's verdict on the Macapagal administration.

It was under the Ramos administration that a systematic consultative approach to the task of poverty alleviation was first adopted, but poverty reduction was often subsumed to the "overarching" goal of economic growth. Former President Estrada took office ostensibly with a pro-poor agenda, but it soon became clear that addressing poverty would be a mere sideline, carried out through cosmetic "photo ops" rather than through serious institutional and policy reform.

The main difference this time around, said NAPC lead convenor Ging Quintos-Deles, is that poverty reduction has become "the work of the entire government," the program mainstreamed into the overall national medium-term development plan. "There is a recognition that poverty reduction is an economic program, and that growth cannot be achieved without equity and asset reform."

* * *

"TARGETED interventions," is how Quintos-Deles calls specific programs the Macapagal administration will implement to address the situation of the country's poor.

The work of the NAPC is primarily to ensure the "meaningful participation of marginalized sectors" in both the planning and implementation of the anti-poverty program, declared Quintos-Deles. With the "meaningful participation" of its target audience, the NAPC is also tasked with defining the over-all poverty thrust of government.

An important aspect of this work is ensuring a "quick response" mechanism to "vulnerable" individuals or communities, such as those who fall victim to calamities, or are subjected to economic and personal shocks. Another is "preventing the marginalized from falling below a certain minimum standard" living condition. Among the "basics" identified: basic education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, shelter, and electricity.

But first, said Quintos-Deles, there is need to reconstitute the NAPC, since the process of selecting commissioners was subverted by the previous administration. This time around, Quintos-Deles declared, the established democratic process of nomination and selection of the members of the Commission will be faithfully followed, to ensure that those who help shape government policy on poverty reduction are the legitimately chosen representatives of their constituents.

One can only wish the NAPC well, as it struggles to get past the resistant layers of the influential and powerful to get at the roots of the poverty that drove those maddened combatants to storm the very gates of the seat of power.

Culture and history in food

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THERE is a saying that the further one progresses through higher education one learns more and more about less and less. I thought this was a joke until I indulged in post-graduate studies and realized that education is like a funnel. It starts out wide from the pre-school, elementary, high school, and first two years of college then it slowly becomes narrow and specialized from the last years of college to graduate and post-graduate work. I was even naive enough to think the a Ph.D. was a terminal degree until I met post-doctoral fellows. I guess the main point is that learning should not end with a degree. The only time we should stop learning is when we die. After all, not all learning comes from school.

I remember when I attended my first post-graduate seminar and sat through lectures best described as esoteric: timber cutting in colonial Burma; piracy in 18th-century Sulawesi; images of women in the art of Meiji Japan, etc. On the surface it does not appear to be very stimulating but one can get in the groove if one makes the effort. As I now warn my students, higher education should develop the capacity to endure boredom—that is the first step in surviving graduate school. Imagine doctoral dissertations on such topics as the names of Russian horses in 19th-century St. Petersburg, or the fastest way to shave a moustache that comes complete with equations, graphs and tables. Nothing is too small or unimportant for academic inquiry and it was not surprising that the Asia-Pacific-American Studies Program and Institute at the New York University sponsored a conference on the Philippine-American War two years ago. They were at it again, last April 19-21, in a ground-breaking conference "Palates of Pleasure: The Philosophy and Politics of Southeast Asian Food." Now readers will understand why my three previous columns were on rice. While a food conference is convened in Oxford every summer, this conference was the first of its kind in the United States and gathered together historians, artists, cooks, writers and everyone interested in Southeast Asian food and culture. The background as stated in the program is simple:

"The region of Southeast Asia is complex in its history of cultural contact with other Asian and Western countries. Through trade, wars and extensive periods of colonization, the lifeways of this region have and still are in constant transformation and development. A primary expression of these evolving processes is illustrated in the food systems of these countries.

"In several Southeast Asian nations such as the Philippines and Vietnam, Western colonization has not only influenced cuisine, but has actually assimilated food systems of these dominating cultures. In other parts of the region, whole ecosystems have been 'developed' out of existence and indigenous food cultures severely endangered. The transformations of the region appear to be accelerating with the region's incorporation into what George Bush Sr. referred to as 'The New World Order.' Locals and tourists alike notice significant increases in 'McDonaldization' within major cities, the incorporation of local farmlands and aqua cultures into global markets, as well as the various immediate and long-term impacts of war and colonialism.

"Yet with the disappearance of 'authentic' foods and rituals and corporization spurring the increase of Western 'fast food' practices within the region, another contemporary trend has been occurring simultaneously: the growing popularity, distribution and consumption of Southeast Asian food in the Asian diaspora. The worldwide restaurant industry has been experiencing a robust increase in the commercialization and commodification of Southeast Asian cuisine and culture, as evident in major American urban centers from mom and pop corporations to trendy, expensive restaurants.

"By exploring the historical as well as the contemporary developments and processes of Southeast Asian food systems, we seek to achieve a greater understanding of cultural and community identity within the region and throughout the diaspora. By doing so, we begin the process of reclaiming indigenous Southeast Asian cuisine and food systems with the goal to preserve them for the future..."

Sounds rather heavy on paper, but the panels were very lively. One tackled how food traveled from country to country breaking geographic and national borders. Another explored the history of food influences from China and India on Southeast Asia. I was surprised to be told that our very own *puto* originated from India! Or that *adobo* despite its Spanish name is actually a pre-colonial Filipino dish. While at it, two round-table discussions were organized on curry and the culture of rice. Food was seen through the crossroads of war and colonialism, through religious ideologies and even how Southeast Asian food is presented and re-presented in US media.

The interactions in this conference made me look deeper into what we eat and why we eat the way we do. Examining the various strands that make up food culture, it made me realize that perhaps an effective way to catch that elusive thing we call national identity is to have Filipinos realize that we truly are what we eat.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@ admu.edu.ph

Need for gov't to defend itself

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOME opposition politicians, as well as a few politicians identified with the administration and some lawyers, are questioning the wisdom of the President's declaration of a state of rebellion in the metropolitan area. There's a lot of hair-splitting going on about whether there was a need to declare such a state of rebellion, with some arguing that there was only lawless violence and sedition, which are now under control. The hair-splitting is mainly coming from the opposition whose leaders are now being rounded up on suspicion of having masterminded the recent uprising.

* * *

There's a lot of irony in the national debate going on. For instance, those protesting the declaration as an alleged prelude to martial law were once upon a time identified with Marcos' martial rule. Among them were former Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, who was the chief implementor of martial law, and former Sen. Edgardo Angara, whose ACCRA law office was alleged to be the de facto legal arm of that regime, having drafted those presidential decrees that enabled the Marcos cronies to corner the coco levy funds. Then too there were Sen. Blas Ople, then Marcos' labor minister and former Executive Secretary Ernesto Maceda.

On the other hand, among those who used to loudly denounce the imposition of martial rule nearly 30 years ago, were the militant Left; now they are applauding Ms Macapagal's declaration of a state of rebellion. Crispin Beltran and Satur Ocampo, who are now nominees of the militant Bayan Muna in the party-list system, were quoted as saying that Ms Macapagal must purge the perennial coup plotters in order to bring about true political stability.

* * *

At a recent PTV-4 talk show former Senate President Jovito Salonga pointed out the perpetual dilemma between the State's need to protect and defend itself, and to assure the civil liberties of the people. How to balance the two, he stressed, is the continuing problem of governance. Salonga cited the dilemma of US President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War, in these words that were also quoted by former Vice President Salvador Laurel in a recent article: "Must a government be too strong for the liberties of its people, or too weak to maintain its own existence?" Salonga said that evidently Lincoln opted for a strong government during the crisis in order to save the American Union. In his first inaugural address in March of 1861, Lincoln, who garnered less than 40 percent of the popular vote, told his Southern critics who were pushing for slavery, "You have no oath registered in heaven to destroy the government, while I shall have the most solemn oath to preserve, protect and defend it."

* * *

Lincoln's words about the need to preserve, protect and defend the government were paraphrased by President Macapagal in her May Day press conference. As Human Rights Commissioner Aurora Navarete-Recina pointed out at the same talk show, Section VII of the Constitution, which deals with the executive department, expressly gave the President as commander in chief of the Armed Forces the power "to call out such Armed Forces to prevent or suppress lawless violence, invasion or rebellion." In other words, said Recina, this is a judgment by the chief executive who ought to be trusted as having access to classified information that ordinary citizens do not have. Recina stressed, however, that among the guarantees against abuse of this prerogative built into the 1987 Constitution, as a reaction to the martial law regime, is that human rights cannot at any time be abrogated.

* * *

The question is, when is a rebellion deemed finished? Ms Macapagal hopes to lift the declaration by next week. Critics, however, are saying the situation is now under control and that therefore, the emergency ought to be lifted. Salonga stressed, however, that a rebellion cannot be likened to the sun suddenly shining after a thunderstorm. He cited how the so-called First Quarter Storm of 1970 was followed many months later by the bombing of Plaza Miranda, of which he was among the worst hit victims. That bombing, not the ramming of the Palace gates by the militant students, he recalled, was what pushed Marcos to proclaim martial law.

* * *

It looks obvious to all except those who opt to stay blind that the roots of the present destabilization go deeper than what's apparent to the eye. Over the past days, opposition leaders have been busy painting the Palace attack as a spontaneous, unorganized effort, in order to absolve themselves. But evidence points to the contrary and this is perhaps what has convinced the Palace about an organized uprising.

For instance, last Sunday evening a few thousand anti-Erap or Edsa II militants heeded Jaime Cardinal Sin's call to stake out a vigil at the Chino Roces Bridge on Mendiola. When the report came that the huge column from Edsa was advancing, the Edsa II people were told to seek refuge in the schools nearby to avoid harm. Some protested and instead made ready to confront the Erap mob *kapit-bisig* style. Luckily MMDA Chief Ben Abalos and his reelectionist son, Mayor Ben-Hur Abalos, arrived and convinced them all to retreat. A thousand people, including the Abaloses, took refuge in San Beda College while a few others ended up in the College of the Holy Spirit. During the rampage, the rioters pounded on SBC's gates but the friars refused to open them. Some Edsa II people brave enough to peer at the mob outside later recalled seeing several huge trucks, one loaded with food and others with big rocks which the mobsters later used to fling at the police. As Ms Macapagal noted, some of the rioters, who were mostly from the marginalized sectors, had tear gas.

Unorganized? What's intriguing is NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco's hint that the financier of the failed rebellion is "an incumbent government official who is not seeking reelection and who is not a businessman." Whoever he or she is, one must conclude that *mahaba ang pisi niya*, for the failed rebellion cost an enormous amount.

* * *

Heart-wringing were the words uttered by Jane Umali-Honasan, the wife of Sen. Gregorio Honasan, to the TV and the print media about her husband. Honasan was one of those ordered arrested over Monday's uprising, but at this writing he remains at large. Ms Honasan was quoted as having advised her husband over the phone to give himself up so he could defend himself, as she "cannot go through this kind of life again." The news item referred to the late '80s when Honasan became the most hunted man in the land, after launching a series of coups against former President Cory Aquino. Those years must have been a difficult ordeal for the family. Over TV Ms Honasan was heard practically begging her husband's longtime mentor, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, to leave him alone so they could resume a normal life.

What makes it lamentable is that Honasan, of all the opposition senatorial candidates, seemed to be the one rising in the surveys. Why he had to be embroiled in the rebellion is hard to understand. For his sake, I hope he would turn himself in and defend himself in court, instead of living the life of a fugitive all over again.

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LETTERS

Today's Pontius Pilates

AS DEPLORABLE as the loss of lives and destruction of property in the failed assault of Malacañang in the early hours of Labor Day was the opposition leaders' denial of accountability.

How can they escape responsibility when they exploited the collective feeling of "*pagka-api*" among the uneducated and long-neglected masses by portraying their fallen leader as the helpless victim of a vengeful and illegal government?

They stoked the fire of discontent among the Erap supporters by claiming that they are collectively labeled as an "unwashed, smelly, toothless, paid crowd" by the elitists of Makati.

They gave them false hopes by announcing imaginary negotiations with the government. They gave them false confidence by claiming that the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police leadership had already defected in their favor. Worse, they egged them to attack Malacañang with the promise of "*walang iwanan!*"

Psyched up and fueled with hate (and by shabu as later discovered by the Department of Health), the mob was repelled by the military and the police who had no choice but to defend the constitutional authority.

But when the Erap loyalists were being hit with tear gas and water cannon, their leaders were conveniently absent. Later, they were seen at the Club Filipino, all looking fresh, washing their hands in public like modern-day Pontius Pilates.

Contrast these cowardly characters with genuine opposition leaders like Tañada, Diokno, Roces and company during the time of Marcos. They were at the frontline of demonstrations. They were the first to be hit by tear gas and water cannon.

The likes of Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan and former President Joseph Estrada don't deserve to be called opposition leaders. They are nothing but demagogues who must be called to account not only by the government but by the people whose trust they have betrayed.

As for Santiago, she can always plead insanity.—**ED DAMES, 24th Floor, The Enterprise Center Tower 2, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Subsidy needed to boost copra prices

THE PROPOSAL found in the article, "Agri officials intervening to lift plummeting copra prices," (PDI, 4/2/01) that coco farmers sell their copra direct to oil millers via cooperatives, though well-intentioned, is in my perception not feasible for various reasons.

Firstly, in places where a coconut oil mill is non-existent, and there are many of them shipping copra to the nearest oil mill some 50 or 100 kilometers away, this will obviously entail tremendous transportation costs, virtually wiping out the projected margin of 35 percent.

Secondly, oil millers who are mostly controlled by the CIIF have their own buying agencies in coconut provinces. Obviously, no oil miller who wants to maximize profit would tolerate competition that buying stations from cooperatives would give.

Thirdly, there are only a handful, if at all, of viable cooperatives that are sufficiently capitalized to venture into such a capital-intensive business as copra buying.

Unless the problems of the coconut industry are clearly defined, it would defy real solutions, and the problem is and has always been, oligarchic monopoly. It is common knowledge buttressed by a pronouncement of the Presidential Commission on Good Government early in the Aquino administration that, "the coco-levy funds are the result of a systematic plunder of the coconut industry committed by the Marcos cronies in collaboration with Cocofed."

The plunderers startlingly have remained scot-free for the last 13 years and through three administrations from Cory Aquino's to Joseph Estrada's. Worse, the plunderers still sit in Congress and hold controlling interests in blue-chip corporations like San Miguel, UCPB and heaven knows what. Is it any wonder then that the coco farmers continue frying in their own fat?

Every time copra prices fall, an apologist for the oligarchy always provides a ready answer: a glut in the vegetable oil market. To the discerning, this ploy is not economically and historically plausible. Supply and demand follow a cyclical, not a linear, pattern. Hence oversupply cannot get stuck for an indefinite period of time. Sooner or later, but not for very long, demand will come to the fore to bring supply down to the equilibrium level. If copra prices defy this economic law, such as in the present situation, then there is no other reason for it except pure manipulation.

This unsettling suspicion is further corroborated historically by the fact that during the administrations of Aquino and Ramos, the prices of copra went on an upward spiral from the Marcos baseline of P2 per kilo to an exhilarating high of P20 per kilo. But as soon as Estrada signed an executive order declaring the coco levy funds private, copra prices started its dizzying fall to P4.50 per kilo and has since remained there for quite some time, with little possibility of its moving up.

The solution: put up a copra price subsidy. This is the only sensible and practical solution in sight. While it subverts price manipulation by monopolists, it simultaneously gives coco farmers adequate leverage to participate in the economic development of the agricultural sector by means of their added purchasing power. Moreover, funding the subsidy is not a problem, since there is the multi-billion coco levy fund, which the Supreme Court is expected to award to the government in favor of the farmers.

The coco farmers do not demand special treatment from the government. All they ask for is simple justice and equity; for the return of what is their due and freedom from exploitation.—**BASILIO CALAPRE, Maasin City, Southern Leyte**

Religion, prosperity, population

A RECENT population news item (PDI, 4/21/01) provided a daunting statistic. In the '90s the Philippines' population increased at a rate of 4,624 persons per day. This means that each day, including weekends, the government and business have to create 4,624 new jobs, an absolutely impossible number. And, of course, more homes, schools, roads, hospitals, potable water and edible food, telephone connections, transport and so on, ad infinitum. There is no economy in the world that can cope with such a birth rate.

In Europe some prosperous countries have a negative population growth including nominally Catholic Italy, and the connection between low birth rate and prosperity is no accident. Prosperity is unattainable with a birth rate of 2.36 percent, which is what prevails in the Philippines. The Islamic community has an even higher birth rate. This is insanity and religion is to blame.

The continuous decline in per capita income in the Philippines over a long period is also a direct expression of excessive population growth. It will continue to worsen if the shackles and delusions of religion are not thrown off.—**ROBERT HANAN, bobhanan@iprimus**

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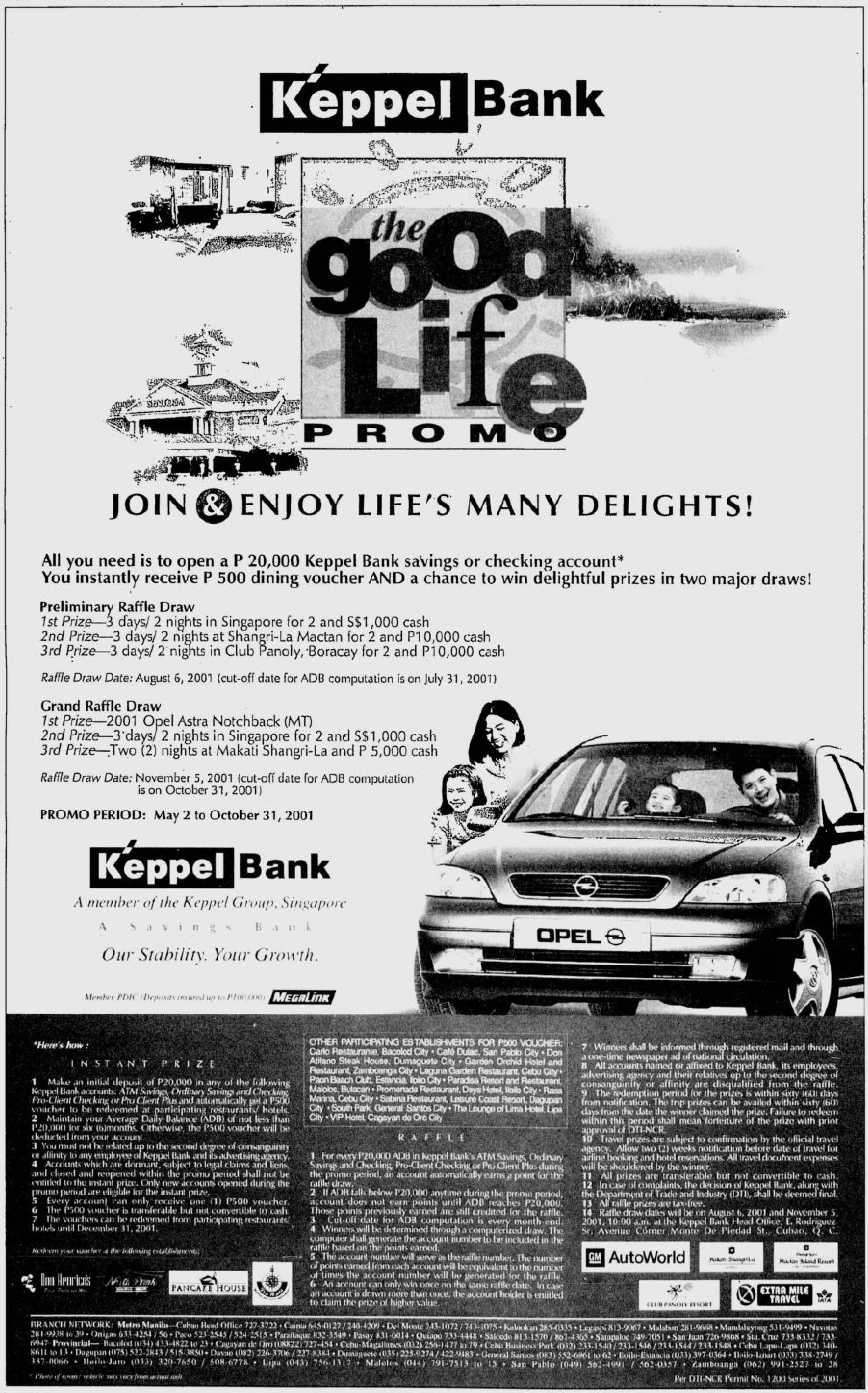
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2 If ADB falls below P20,000 anytime during the promo period, account does not earn points until ADB reaches P20,000. Those points previously earned are still credited for the raffle.
3 Cut-off date for ADB computation is every month-end.
4 Winners will be determined through a computerized draw. The computer shall generate the account number to be included in the raffle based on the points earned.
5 The account number will serve as the raffle number. The number of points earned from each account will be equivalent to the number of times the account number will be generated for the raffle.
6 An account can only win once on the same raffle date. In case an account is drawn more than once, the account holder is entitled to claim the prize of higher value.
7 Winners shall be informed through registered mail and through a one-time newspaper ad of national circulation.
8 All accounts named or affixed to Keppel Bank, its employees, advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the raffle.
9 The redemption period for the prizes is within sixty (60) days from notification. The trip prizes can be availed within sixty (60) days from the date the winner claimed the prize. Failure to redeem within this period shall mean forfeiture of the prize with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
10 Travel prizes are subject to confirmation by the official travel agency. Allow two (2) weeks notification before date of travel for airline booking and hotel reservations. All travel document expenses will be shouldered by the winner.
11 All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
12 In case of complaints, the decision of Keppel Bank, along with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall be deemed final.
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The WORLD

Europe wary about US missile plan

BRUSSELS—US President George W. Bush's decision to push ahead with a missile defense plan has drawn little criticism from America's skeptical European allies, who fear losing leverage with a superpower they suspect is ready to go with it alone.

Despite misgivings over the feasibility of the missile defense plan and the possibility of a new arms race, no major Nato power publicly condemned the plan following Bush's speech Tuesday.

Instead, the British, French, Germans, Italians and others took heart in Bush's pledge to consult with Washington's allies, as well as the Russians and the Chinese, as his administration develops a detailed timetable.

Some urged Bush to think carefully about the implications for arms control agreements, notably the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

"We hope these consultations will touch on all questions raised by the project," the French Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. "Our assessment, when the time comes, will be the result of the consultations to come and the definitive shape the project."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he preferred to wait "for a firm proposal before giving a firm decision." German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer repeated his government's concerns about a new arms race.

But Fischer avoided further criticism pending a "review of the American proposals" and "intense consultations" within the Nato alliance.

Several leading European newspapers showed less restraint.

"In presenting his anti-nuclear shield project as an irrevocable decision, he has buried the concept of nuclear deterrence," France's newspaper Le Figaro said.

The Guardian newspaper in London warned that plan "will have dangerously negative repercussions worldwide" and could encourage Russia, China and India to expand their nuclear arsenals.

Another British newspaper, The Independent, said Bush "seemed ready to ignore the concerns of the rest of the world" and that his plan "makes little sense in objective terms" because of its "severely flawed" technology.

Many European governments share those concerns.

Sven-Olof Pettersson of the Swedish Foreign Ministry, said Sweden had strong misgivings about Bush's view that the anti-ballistic missile treaty, which would bar development of the shield, is a Cold War relic.

"The problem is that during the time when . . . having abrogated it and before having found a new framework . . . we fear very much that we would have a new arms race when it comes to nuclear weapons," Pettersson said.

However, confronting Washington on an issue which has broad bipartisan in the United States support could drive a wedge between the United States and its allies at a time when the Europeans are worried about an "America First" attitude in Washington.

The Europeans managed to convince the administration to rethink proposals stated during the election campaign to withdraw US troops from the Balkans. *AP*

US-China military contacts under review

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department said Wednesday that future contacts with the Chinese military are under review, but it withdrew a directive from Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to suspend all contacts.

Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, speaking for Rumsfeld, told reporters that the Rumsfeld aide who wrote the memo had "misinterpreted the secretary's intentions" by declaring a suspension of military-to-military relations.

"His actual intention is for all elements of the military-to-military program to be reviewed and approved on a case by case basis by the Department of Defense," Quigley said several hours after the memo was leaked to reporters.

Quigley declined to say who wrote the memo. He said Rumsfeld had not seen it before it was sent to the military service secretaries, the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and senior civilian officials in the Pentagon.

The memo said Rumsfeld was directing "the suspension of all Department of Defense programs, contacts and activities with the People's Republic of China until further notice." Several officials told reporters that the order took effect Monday, the day it was distributed inside the Pentagon. Later, Quigley said that a corrected version would be sent to make clear that military-to-military ties were not suspended.

Monday's memo was quite detailed. It said Rumsfeld had directed that defense attachés abroad be permitted to attend social functions, as part of their usual activities, in which Chinese officials may be present. But there were to be no Pentagon contacts with Chinese diplomatic representatives in Washington, it said.

The confusion over the future of US-Chinese military relations became public on the day that a team of US civilian defense contractors arrived in China to assess what would be required to return the Navy surveillance plane that made an emergency landing at a military airfield on Hainan island on April 1 after colliding with a Chinese fighter jet.

The Lockheed Martin technicians spent about four hours aboard the Navy plane Wednesday to begin their assessment. They were to return to the plane for a final day of work Thursday. *AP*

Pope's visit to Greece faces snags

ATHENS—Pope John Paul II's pilgrimage to Greece has faced a host of troubles: outrage from Greek Orthodox activists, a spat over music and now questions over whether the Pontiff will break a 22-year tradition and not kiss the soil when he arrives on Friday.

The Vatican insists he will. Roman Catholic organizers in Greece said Wednesday they've been told the Pope will only receive a simple gift of olive branches and flowers.

The mixed signals over the papal kiss—done since John Paul began his world travels in 1979—exposes the hypersensitivity surrounding the 24-hour visit to retrace the steps of the Apostle Paul.

Greek Orthodox protesters have denounced allowing the Pope on the "sacred soil" of Greece. A papal kiss could rile the demonstrators and perhaps widen the opposition beyond the religious fringe and ultra-nationalist groups that have led a series of anti-pope rallies.

"The Papal insistence on tradition . . . is a farce," said the Rev. Giorgos Metalinos, an Athens University theology professor who joined more than 1,000 people Wednesday outside the city's main Orthodox cathedral to condemn the Pope's visit. The six-day trip also includes Syria and Malta.

Protesters waved crucifixes and black flags. "Pope: persona non grata," read one banner.

"The Pope is asking us to revere him. He will pay homage to our soil without feeling true remorse," Metalinos said.

The Vatican is often portrayed in Greece as hostile to Orthodox Christians and blamed for the demise of the Greek Byzantine Empire in the 15th century.

Christianity split into the Orthodox and Roman Catholic branches nearly 1,000 years ago over the issue of papal authority. Many Greek Orthodox clerics consider themselves caretakers of the original faith and view the Pope as a heretical leader.

"The millennium is beginning with a humiliating capitulation. The Pope is not coming as a simple pilgrim, but to divide us," said Theodoros Zisis, a professor of theology at the University of Thessaloniki.

But forcing a retreat from the soil-kissing ceremony would mark a significant victory for the papal opponents.

John Paul has always kissed the ground upon arriving in a country for the first time. For about the past decade, because of difficulties in bending down, the frail Pontiff has been offered a vessel holding soil to kiss.

"As is scheduled and as he has done on all his trips, the Holy Father will kiss Greek soil as a gesture of respect," papal spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

But Nikos Gasparakis, spokesperson for the Roman Catholic Church in Greece, told reporters: "there will be no soil." *AP*

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2. For every roll of film (ANY BRAND) processed at participating FUJIFILM dealers/photo shops, a customer will get ONE (1) Triple Photo Panalo raffle coupon on which he/she must fill-in his/her NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE/CONTACT NUMBER/S, SIGNATURE, OUTLET/ DEALER, SALESPERSON and drop it at its respective TRIPLE PHOTO PANALO Drop Box in participating FUJIFILM dealers/photo shops.
3. For purchase of any FUJIFILM or YKL CAMERA, a customer gets a raffle coupon. One (1) raffle coupon per transaction. Customer must fill-in his/her NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE/CONTACT NUMBER/S, SIGNATURE, OUTLET/DEALER, SALESPERSON and drop the coupon in its respective TRIPLE PHOTO PANALO Drop Box in participating FUJIFILM dealers/photo shops

C. Rules
1. Promo duration: This promotion will start on January 26, 2001 and will end on June 11, 2001.
2. The GRAND RAFFLE DRAW will be held on June 28, 2001 at Eat Bulaga noontime show, GMA-Channel 7 with the presence of DTI, YKL, and Jimenez D'Arcy representatives.
3. Last day of submission of entries will be on June 11, 2001.
4. 106 winners (6 grand prizes and 100 consolation prizes).
5. Allocation of Prizes:
   a. Film Box Category:
      Two (2) winners of Ford F-150 Lariat A/T 2000
      (1-for NCR & REGION 4 and 1-for ALL OTHER REGIONS)
      Thirty-three (33) winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 cameras & film
      (16- for NCR & REGION 4 and 17-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
   b. Photofinishing/Developing Category:
      Two (2) winners of Ford Ranger XLT 4x2
      (1-for NCR & REGION 4 and 1-for ALL OTHER REGIONS)
      Thirty-three (33) winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 cameras & film
      (16- for NCR & REGION 4 and 17- for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
   c. Camera Category:
      Two (2) winners of Speed Fight 2 Peugeot 50cc Motorcycle
      (1-for NCR & REGION 4 and 1-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
      Thirty-four (34) winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 cameras & film
      (17-for NCR & REGION 4 and 17-for ALL OTHER REGIONS).
6. A winner can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize in all categories. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
7. Winners shall be asked to present their claim stub portion of the raffle coupon (for photofinishing and camera category) and any of the following identification papers (School/company ID, driver's license, any ID with picture).
8. Employees of YKL, Jimenez D'Arcy and participating FUJIFILM dealers/photo shops and their representatives, including relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
9. Winners will be announced via print ads and will be notified by registered mail as to where he/she can claim the prize. Prizes can be claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification. Winners of Fujifilm Instax 100 Cameras can claim their prize at corresponding YKL owned store specified in the registered mail. Winners of Ford F-150 Lariat A/T 2000, Ford Ranger XLT 4x2 and Speed Fight 2 Peugeot 50cc Motorcycle can be claimed from Mr. Sonny Teves at YKL head office at 24 Sto. Domingo Road, Quezon City. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited in favor of YKL, with prior approval of DTI.
10. The winner agrees to pay the 20% withholding tax on prizes more than P10,000.

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Blair: Foot-and-mouth defeated

LONDON—Prime Minister Tony Blair was expected to declare Thursday that Britain has finally conquered foot-and-mouth, clearing the way for a general election next month.

With the number of daily outbreaks now consistently into single figures, he will say that the livestock virus should disappear within weeks barring a few sporadic cases into summer, according to remarks released in advance.

A press conference was being planned for later in the morning at Downing Street—ironically on the day Blair would have held the election if the epidemic had not forced him to delay.

"It will in effect be a declaration of victory," the BBC's political editor Andrew Marr said.

"We can almost expect today to be the first day of the campaign."

The backlog in disposing of carcasses is also being cleared, and the raging debates over vaccination and mass slaughter are over.

Blair was to say there would be "no complacency" as the disease entered its final stages, but that the government's tough mass slaughter policy was bearing fruit.

The prime minister had long favored May 3 as election day until the crisis over foot-and-mouth forced that idea off the rails.

Although no date has been formally set for a general election, it is widely expected to be held on June 7 at the same time as local council polls, which had been postponed from May 3.

All opinion polls give the governing Labor Party a commanding 15-20 point lead over the fractious opposition Conservatives.

Blair was to be joined at the press conference by Agriculture Minister Nick Brown, the government's chief scientific adviser David King and its chief vet Jim Scudamore.

"It is clear that we are winning the battle against foot-and-mouth. We have the right policy. It is working," he was due to say. *AFP*

LAURA BUSH

US first lady on list of 50 most beautiful

WASHINGTON—Though barely 100 days in the White House, US First Lady Laura Bush earned an important distinction Wednesday, making her way into People Magazine's prestigious list of 50 most beautiful people.

Bush, who thus far has kept relatively low profile, finds herself in the company of Hollywood stars like Julia Roberts, Jennifer Lopez, Heather Locklear, Ed Harris and George Clooney.

Precious few outside the entertainment industry made the list, which will be featured in the issue of People Magazine that will hit newsstands on Friday.

One of them is Navy Lt. Shane Osborn, who piloted the ill-fated US spy plane that collided last month with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea and made an emergency landing on China's Hainan Island.

The strapping Osborn is credited with managing to pull the damaged EP-3 Aries plane out of a steep dive and saving the lives of all 24 crew members.

"Heroic" was the word most frequently used to describe Osborn's performance during the incident.

Hong Kong-based action movie actor Chow Yun-fat was singled out for playing the leading role in more than 70 films that have made him a superstar throughout Asia.

Also on the list is actress Zhang Ziyi, who played a lead role on the Oscar-winning Taiwanese movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

"She's sexy and she's innocent, and beneath her exterior there's something untamable," film director Ang Lee said of Zhang. "In real life she is the hidden dragon." *AFP*

Sharon pledges to stop months of violence

JERUSALEM—Visiting a West Bank Jewish settlement where the latest victim of a Palestinian ambush lived, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pledged to stop seven months of violence, but settlers complained that he isn't doing enough.

As Sharon exchanged views with the settlers, most of whom voted for him in February's election expecting a crackdown against the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres prepared for a meeting yesterday with US President George W. Bush to discuss peace efforts, and Palestinians sifted through the rubble of houses bulldozed by the Israeli military in Gaza during a fierce battle.

Visiting the widow of settler Assaf Hershkovitz, killed in a highway ambush Tuesday just five kilometers from the spot where his father was gunned down Jan. 29, Sharon pledged Wednesday to prove to the Palestinians that they will gain nothing from violence.

But the settlers were not convinced. "Where is the peace?" read a protest banner that greeted Sharon at Ofra, a quiet village in the rolling hills north of Jerusalem.

Sharon told Hershkovitz's widow, Hila, that "people thought there was a solution that would take one day. There's no solution in one day."

She responded: "But there's not even a ray of light. We're in the same situation."

In Gaza, Israeli tanks fired shells and machine-gun rounds to cover the pre-dawn operation in Rafah, in southern Gaza along the border with Egypt, said Brig. Gen. Abdel Razek el-Majaida, a Palestinian security commander. Doctors said Mahmoud Aqel, 17, was killed and at least 15 Palestinians were wounded in an intense exchange of fire.

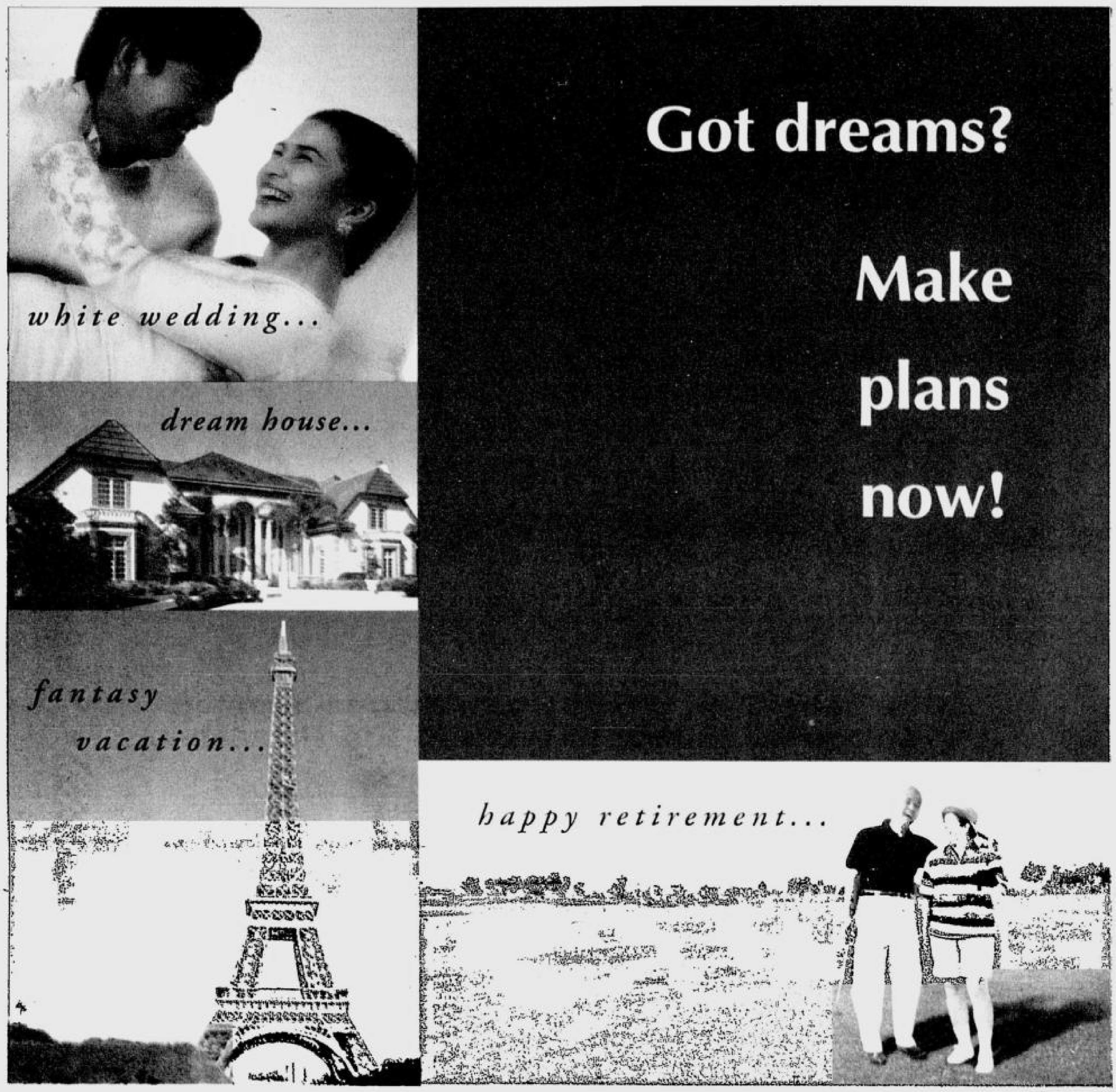
Five Israeli bulldozers leveled 20 houses, three chicken farms and greenhouses, the Palestinian Authority said. The Palestinians fired automatic rifles and anti-tank rockets at the Israeli forces.

Under existing interim peace accords, Gaza is divided between Israeli and Palestinian control, and both sides claimed they were in charge of the area where the housing demolitions took place.

The Israeli military called it a "pinpointed, defensive action" that was carried out after its troops came under heavy fire from the houses.

"They were using civilian buildings to shoot at us and we had to prevent future shooting from these buildings," Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Olivier Rafowicz said.

Since fighting began last September, 431 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 72 on the Israeli side. *AP*



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Wahid may revamp Cabinet to placate foes

WAHID

JAKARTA—Indonesian President Abdurahman may reshape his Cabinet in the hope of staving off impeachment, a senior aide said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab said changing the ministerial lineup "makes sense," but added that Wahid had yet to make up his mind on the matter.

News reports say a team of political advisers want Wahid to recruit new ministers from the ranks of a party headed by Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, his main rival.

The party is the biggest in the parliament and has been leading the charge against Wahid. Unless he can win back its support, he has virtually no chance of surviving politically for more than a few months.

Giving Megawati's bloc more power is seen as one way to end the campaign against Wahid, who came to power 18 months ago as Indonesia's first freely elected leader after four decades of dictatorship.

However, it is unclear whether it will be a viable solution to Wahid's troubles. Megawati has not commented on the idea and some of her aides have said she opposes it.

On Monday, parliament overwhelmingly censured Wahid over two corruption scandals and accused him of incompetence. It was its second formal rebuke of the president this year and it opened the way for his possible impeachment.

Under complex constitutional rules, Wahid has one month to respond to the censure.

On Wednesday, he made a televised national speech, but only angered lawmakers further when he failed to address their criticisms.

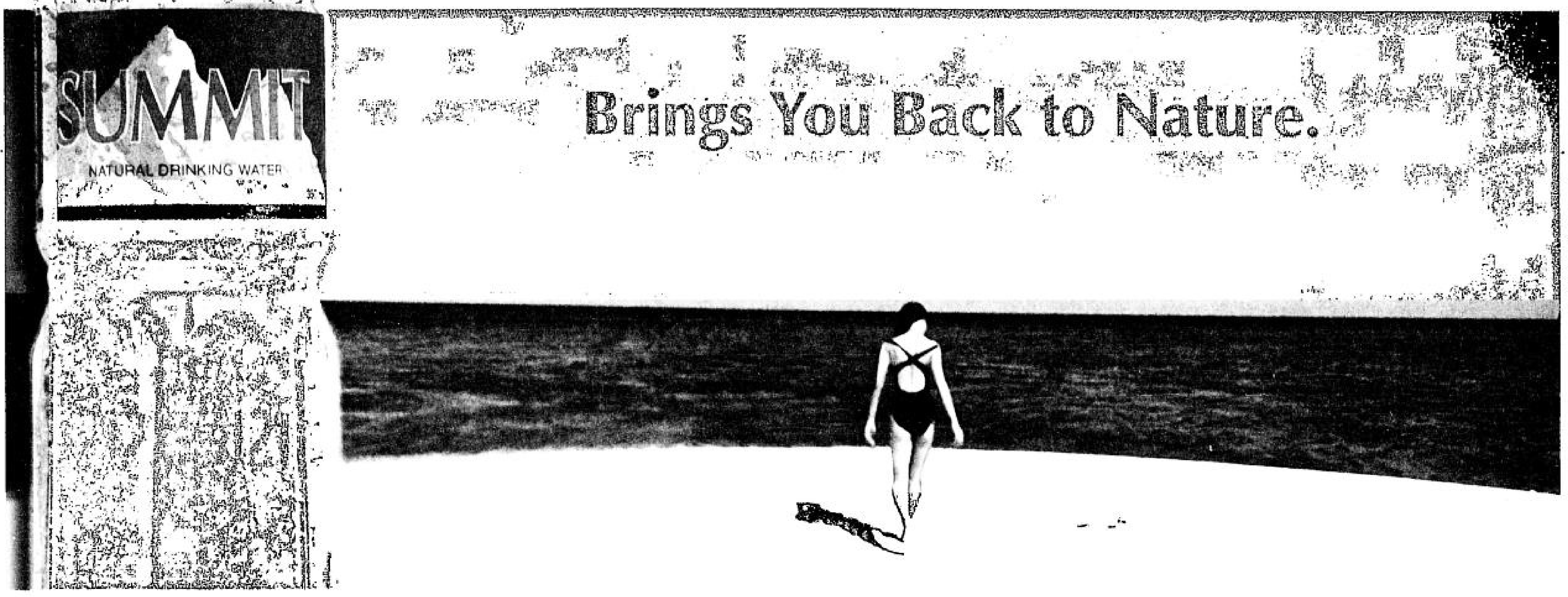
Senior lawmakers say that without a full response from the president, the parliament would have no choice but to seek his impeachment by a higher assembly.

Despite the threat, presidential spokesperson Adhi Massardi said Wahid will not make any further statements about the censure.

"He won't be saying anything more," Massardi said.

Kompas newspaper quoted a palace source as saying several key advisers had warned Wahid against making controversial and confusing statements that could endanger negotiations aimed at keeping his in office.

Wahid is renown for making flippant remarks that infuriate his critics. Last year he likened parliament to a kindergarten. And, despite his political reliance upon Megawati, he has often publicly joked about her alleged incompetence and lack of intellectual heft. *AP*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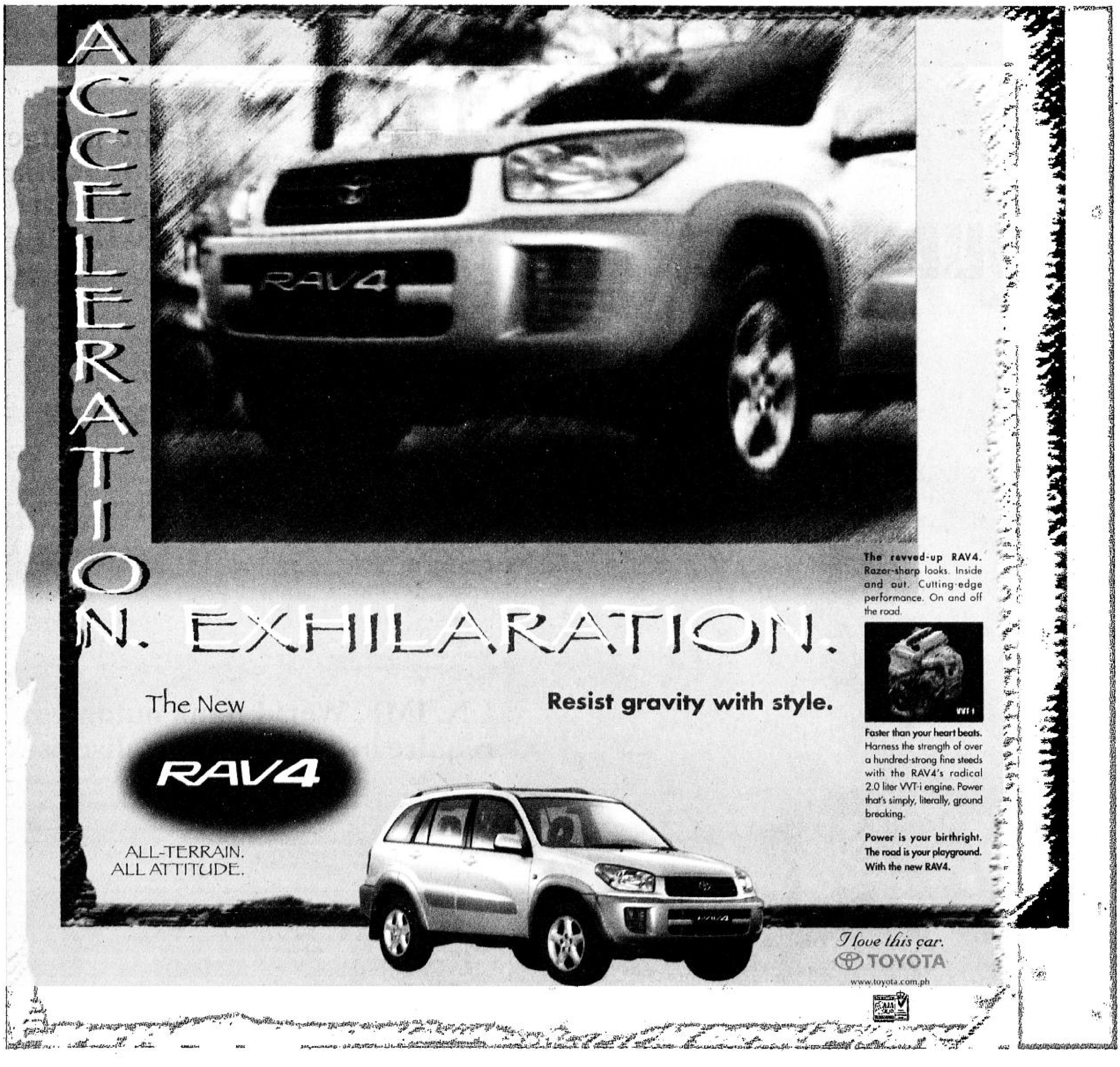
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SWEDISH Prime Minister Goran Persson (left) shakes hands with North Korean leader Kimg Jong-il prior to their meeting in Pyongyang on May 2. Persson is leading a European Union delegation on a landmark visit to promote peace between the two Koreas.
REUTERS

Kim Jong-il vows to keep moratorium on missile testing

PYONGYANG—North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has promised to maintain a moratorium on missile testing until at least 2003, visiting European Union leaders said yesterday.

Analysts said Kim's vow might be a gesture of reconciliation toward the United States, whose new administration of President George W. Bush has launched a review of North Korean policy.

"We expressed very grave concern about the missile program," Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson told a news conference after five hours of talks with the North Korean supreme leader.

"Kim Jong-il said the moratorium on the testing would last until 2003, during which time they would wait and see," said Persson, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

Javier Solana, the EU high representative for security and foreign policy affairs, said it was unclear why 2003 had been chosen, but added: "We hope that the moratorium will continue beyond that."

North Korea set international alarm bells ringing when it test-fired a rocket over Japan on Aug. 31, 1998. North Korea said it was a satellite launch, but Japan insisted it was a ballistic missile test.

The communist state declared its intention to suspend tests in September 1999 when then US president Bill Clinton said the United States was ready to lift some economic sanctions.

Pyongyang insisted the moratorium would be kept as long as missile talks with the United States continued. The North has demanded cash compensation for ending exports of its weaponry.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said after meeting Kim Jong-il in Pyongyang in July that North Korea was ready to halt the missile program if the United States or other Western countries provided commercial satellite launches.

When then US secretary of state Madeleine Albright visited Pyongyang in November, Kim Jong-il again indicated that the tests would be halted.

But the North threatened to resume missile tests after Bush took office in January and froze contacts with North Korea.

Bush has used the threat from "rogue states" like North Korea to justify his planned National Missile Defense (NMD) shield.

Suh Jae-jean, a North Korea expert at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul, said "this is Kim Jong-il's reconciliation gesture to George Bush."

"North Korea may think they cannot go ahead with a confrontation with the United States, especially after the so-called NMD program was unveiled this week," Suh said.

"So Kim's remarks reflect North Korea's concerns and their efforts to resume dialogue with Washington on improving relations." *AFP*

Media watchdog brands Mahathir enemy of press

KUALA LUMPUR—Local journalists, opposition leaders and rights activists yesterday denounced Malaysia's tough media laws as an international media watchdog named Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad an enemy of the press.

In comments marking World Press Freedom Day, they repeated calls for the Printing Presses and Publication Act (PPPA) to be abolished ahd protested at the government's move to consider tightening media laws.

Mahathir was for a third straight year named among the top ten enemies of the press in a list published by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

The printing presses act makes the publication of "malicious news" punishable by jail terms and empowers authorities to ban or restrict the circulation of local publications.

Last year authorities severely curbed the circulation of the opposition party newspaper Harakah and closed down two smaller publications.

Zulkifli Sulong, editor of Harakah, is also on trial for a separate alleged offence of sedition over an article in the newspaper.

Norila Mohamad Daud, president of the National Union of Journalists, said the PPPA, which requires the local media to apply for an annual publishing permit, has shackled them.

"The act is hampering the free flow of information. Newspapers imposed self-censorship to avoid problems with the government. It must go to allow the media to operate without fear or favor," she said.

Norila said the fact that many mainstream papers are owned by political parties also complicated the situation.

"There is a perception that mainstream papers are biased and not credible. Newspaper owners must be more professional by allowing fair and balanced reporting," she said.

Mahathir last month denounced total freedom of the Internet and said Malaysia may amend media legislation to make it more effective, including possible changes to the PPPA. *AFP*

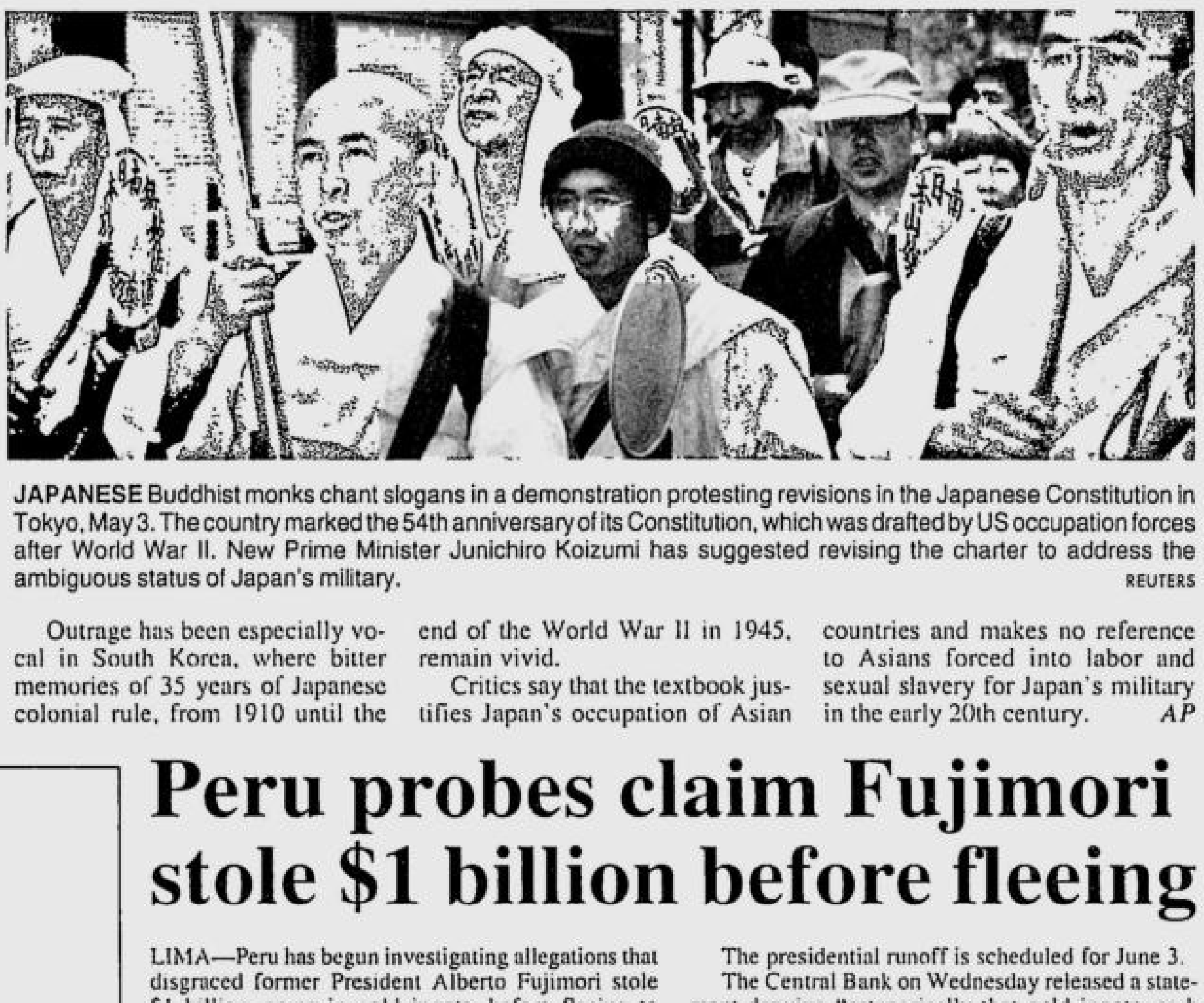
Seoul wants Japan textbook revised

SEOUL—South Korea will formally demand this week that Japan revise a history textbook that critics say whitewashes Japan's colonial and wartime atrocities, officials said yesterday.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo will summon the Japanese ambassador to Seoul, Teruske Terada, to his office Friday to relay Seoul's demand, Han's ministry said in a news release.

Seoul's demands will be based on a monthlong review of the textbook by South Korean historians, it said. But contents of the report, which lists alleged errors in the textbook, were not disclosed yesterday.

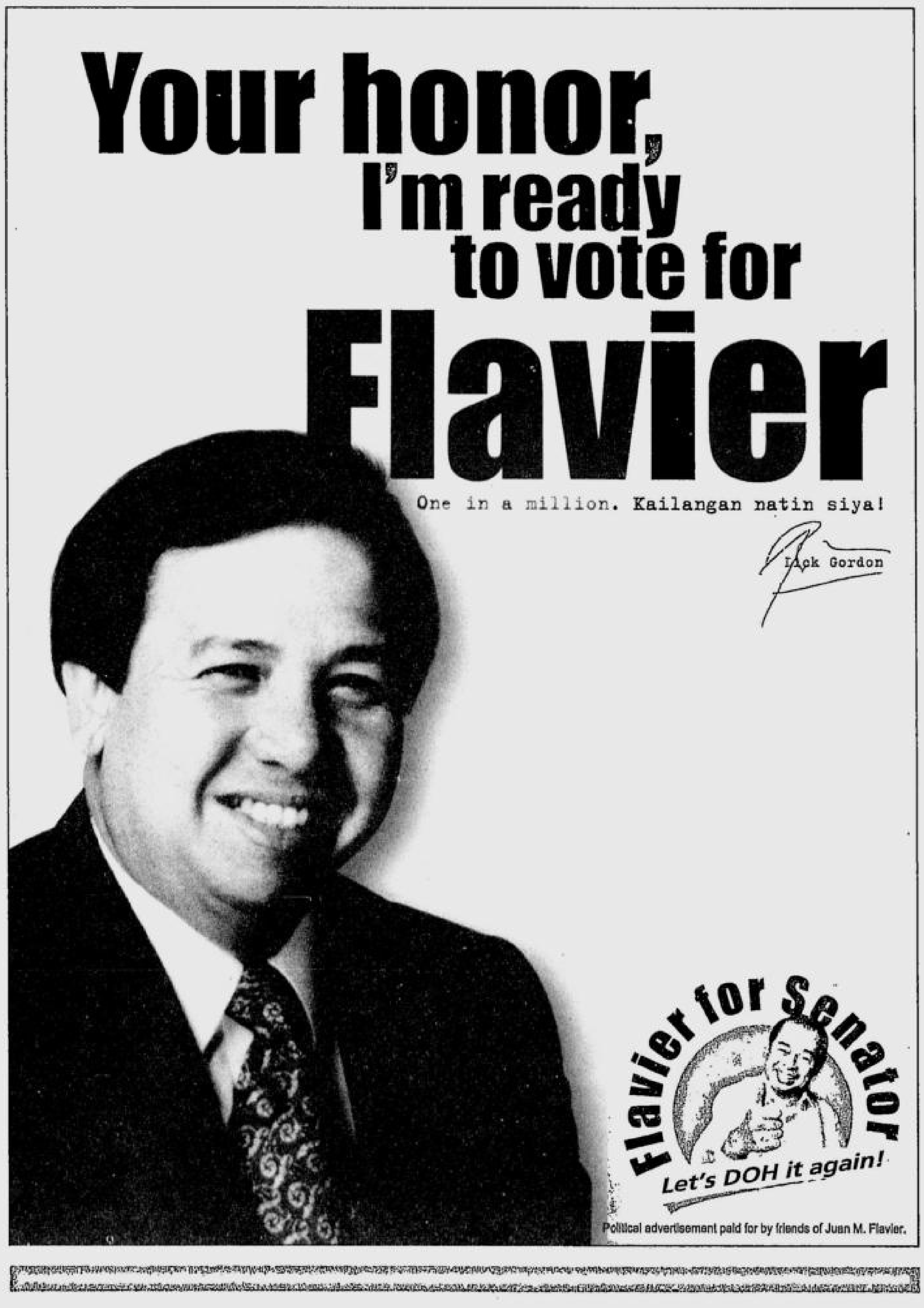
The Japanese government has come under fire from South Korea, China and other Asian nations, including North Korea, for approving use of the textbook written by scholars who defend Japan's wartime record.



JAPANESE Buddhist monks chant slogans in a demonstration protesting revisions in the Japanese Constitution in Tokyo, May 3. The country marked the 54th anniversary of its Constitution, which was drafted by US occupation forces after World War II. New Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has suggested revising the charter to address the ambiguous status of Japan's military.
REUTERS

Outrage has been especially vocal in South Korea, where bitter memories of 35 years of Japanese colonial rule, from 1910 until the end of the World War II in 1945, remain vivid.

Critics say that the textbook justifies Japan's occupation of Asian countries and makes no reference to Asians forced into labor and sexual slavery for Japan's military in the early 20th century. *AP*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Peru probes claim Fujimori stole $1 billion before fleeing

LIMA—Peru has begun investigating allegations that disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori stole $1 billion, some in gold ingots, before fleeing to Japan last year.

Attorney General Nelly Calderon announced the investigation on Wednesday, saying her office had requested information from several government agencies to find out "how much President Fujimori has taken, if he has taken anything."

The investigation is based on accusations made by lawmaker David Waisman, who heads a congressional probe into the origins of multimillion-dollar bank accounts linked to Fujimori's fugitive ex-intelligence chief Vladimiro Montesinos.

Waisman said last week that a witness told investigators Fujimori stole $1 billion from Peru, some of that in gold bars from the Central Bank.

He refused to identify the witness and provided no other details.

Fujimori fled to his parents' native Japan in November amid mounting corruption scandals surrounding Montesinos, who is currently on the run from several criminal charges, including extortion and arms dealing.

The congressman's remarks have sparked a public buzz over whether Fujimori could have pulled off such a feat, but the comments also surprised a leading member of Waisman's committee.

Congresswoman Angel Townsend said that her colleague's remarks were not made in the name of the committee and that "he has been making statements on his own for a while."

Waisman was just re-elected to Congress in April but he is also a vice presidential candidate on the ticket of front-running presidential candidate Alejandro Toledo.

The presidential runoff is scheduled for June 3.

The Central Bank on Wednesday released a statement denying "categorically that gold ingots, cash or anything else of value have been taken" from its vaults.

For his part, Fujimori dismissed Waisman's claims as "ridiculous and absurd" in a letter to Peruvian media.

"I would have needed no less than 10 cargo planes," he wrote from his self-imposed exile in Japan.

Since Fujimori's 10-year autocratic rule collapsed in November, politicians of all stripes have eagerly attacked the former leader. Several dozen congressional committees are competing to investigate Fujimori and Montesinos, and at times committees have accused one another of invading their turf. The prosecutor's office and a special state's attorney are also investigating both men.

While many Peruvians believe Fujimori was in some way linked to Montesinos' web of corruption, so far he is charged only with abandonment of office and dereliction of duty for fleeing the country. There is no evidence yet of his corruption.

Peru has submitted an extradition request to Japan, but since Tokyo has recognized Fujimori as a Japanese citizen he is unlikely to be forced to return.

Montesinos is believed to have amassed a fortune through a criminal network that permeated Peru's government, Congress, courts and armed forces.

Montesinos fled Peru in October. He allegedly was last seen in December undergoing plastic surgery in Caracas. Authorities have so far discovered $105 million in bank accounts linked to Montesinos in Switzerland alone. No bank accounts in Fujimori's name have been found. *AP*

UN, IMF, World Bank outdated, require overhaul, report discloses

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are outdated institutions that need to be overhauled, according to a report by the United Nations University.

The report, which was released Wednesday, said the UN bodies set up at the end of World War II had failed to change despite the end of the Cold War and a move toward globalization.

"The process of globalization has given rise to new problems and governance needs" but the UN system has yet to adjust, the Tokyo-based think-tank for the UN system wrote.

The report also said the moral authority of the United Nations is "seriously undermined because its laws or principles are enforced selectively when it suits the interests of the rich and powerful."

It called for repeal of the veto power enjoyed by the five permanent UN Security Council members—the United States, China, Russia, Britain and France—which allows them to block resolutions.

The United Nations University prepared the report with input from the UN's Division for Social Policy and Development and Finland's ministry for foreign affairs.

The findings are likely to fuel calls by disgruntled foreign governments and international organizations, pushing for reform within the three powerful institutions, which have long been accused of being overly bureaucratic, slow to respond to crises and ineffective.

The report said the United Nations should move away from its current system of financing, where nations pay annual dues. The world body should have an independent source of funding which would "loosen the reins of political control now exercised by the powerful member states," it said.

The study called for the establishment of an "Economic Security Council," as a means of governing globalization and to provide a platform for discussions on international economic policy.

It also suggested setting up a permanent peacekeeping force, which would allow the United Nations to respond urgently to humanitarian crises, without having to muster troops from foreign countries, a process that often takes months. *AP*

Across the NATION

Tony Bergonia, Assistant Editor

More killings mar campaign as polls near

THE ELECTIONS on May 14 could turn out to be one of the bloodiest in the country's history as there appears to be no reprieve from a spate of killings of candidates nationwide.

In Zamboanga Sibugay, unidentified men shot and killed a female reelectionist mayor Wednesday.

Seven other persons, including two candidates for councilor, were wounded in the attack.

Col. Cesar Ramboanga, chief of the Army's 102nd Infantry Brigade, said Mayor Dineah Tora Tapodoc (NPC) was speaking before a crowd during a fiesta in Barangay Payag in Malangas when armed men opened fire.

Municipal council candidates Elma Guevarra, 51 and Loreto Banquiao, 34 were wounded as they were seating behind the mayor when the attack took place.

Banquiao said the suspects also shot "us after determining that the mayor was already lying dead on the stage."

But Banquiao said he could not identify the suspects as "they were standing at a distance and they mixed with the crowd."

Also wounded were Sotero Remando, 54; Banquiao's younger brother, Gilbert, 21; Rolleta Basarte, 24, her younger brother, Renante, 22 and her cousin Florante Basarte, 18. Guevarra said they did not receive any information on threats to Tapodoc's life.

Tapodoc's rival in the mayoral race was Dr. Marcelo Tingcang (Lakas).

In Sorsogon City, a candidate for vice mayor survived an ambush Wednesday.

The group of Azel Diesta, vice mayoral candidate in Sorsogon City, was in a van going to Bacon District when they were fired upon by still unidentified armed men in Barangay Sogod, some 5 kilometers from the city center.

The gunmen fled when Army soldiers came.

Earlier, Bacon Mayor Leovic Deonida cheated death when he was ambushed by six armed men days before the start of the campaign period.

On April 26, former Malangas town Mayor Jessie Postero was killed in Barangay Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental. Postero was on board a van on his way to Pagadian City when a man shot him in the head.

In T'boli, South Cotabato on May 1, Vice Mayor Salvador Ramos, the People Power Coalition's mayoral candidate in the said town, survived an ambush.

But killed in that ambush were reelectionist town Councilor Marivic Tanco, John Mark Provido, Marcie Lawa and a still unidentified barangay official.

Three other persons were wounded.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, chief of the 601st Infantry Brigade, said Ramos and his group were on their way to an adjacent village when armed men fired at their convoy of vehicles and motorcycles.

In Cabanatuan City, Lakas-NUCD officials of Nueva Ecija condemned the Sunday ambush of a three-convoy vehicle bearing the party's candidate and followers in Sto. Domingo town.

Rep. Pacifico Fajardo, Lakas-NUCD chair in Nueva Ecija, described the ambush in Barangay San Agustin, where two people were killed and five others were hurt, as an "unprovoked violence."

He said the attack was politically motivated.

A driver of one of the vehicles was killed while another died of a heart attack.

Reelectionist Councilor Narudel Monsalud of Sto. Domingo town, whom police reports said could be the object of the attack, was unhurt but her five supporters were wounded.

Police identified the fatalities as Sergio Lucas, 26, and Imelda Romero, 32. Lucas was the driver of the convoy's lead vehicle while Romero was a Lakas campaign staffer who was also in the lead vehicle.

The wounded were riding in either one of the vehicles that were sprayed with bullets by the suspects.

Fajardo said the assailants could be after the Lakas-NUCD candidates of the town who were in the area that night.

"Our candidates there are strong contenders that's why they want to silence them," he said in a statement.

Fajardo, who is Lakas-NUCD candidate for Nueva Ecija governor, went to Sto. Domingo on Monday after learning of the ambush. *Hernan de la Cruz, Aquiles Zonio and Jonathan Ma, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Truck rams mining protest; 1 killed

By Cynthia Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A person was killed and three others were seriously injured on Monday when a 10-wheel truck owned by the Hinatuan Mining Corp. (HMC) ran into a group of protesters opposed to the operation of the mining firm in Manicani Island, Guiuan town, Eastern Samar.

The protesters were forming a human barricade at the Manicani port to prevent the loading of nickel ore into a vessel bound for Japan when truck driver Edgar Melquiades allegedly rammed his truck into them.

Killed on the spot was Alfie Arsenio, a resident of the island.

Zosimo Badilla, 41, and one of those injured, was transferred to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center based in this city from the Guiuan General Hospital, which lacked facilities.

His X-ray showed that Zosimo had 10 fractured ribs, which resulted in a kidney malfunction and his difficulty to urinate.

The two others injured were admitted at the Guiuan Eastern Samar General Hospital. Their names were unavailable as of late afternoon yesterday.

Police said Melquiades gave himself up immediately after the ramming.

Badilla, Arsenio and their two other companions were members of the Save Manicani Movement, an organization composed of Manicani residents who were opposed to the resumption of mining operations on the island.

On Friday, more than 300 members of the movement barricaded the port to prevent the HMC workers from loading nickel ore to be shipped to Japan.

Catalina Badilla, wife of Zosimo, told the INQUIRER her husband and his other companions kept a 24-hour vigil at the port to "guard" Manicani. "I did not know something like this would happen," she added.

She said she was in her house when he learned that Melquiades ran into the group of protests who formed a human chain apparently to prevent the truck from getting in to the port.

The Badilla couple has six children, the eldest is 15 and the youngest, four. The couple has been trying to make ends meet by saving every centavo that Zosimo earns by selling fish and other marine products in the market.

Manicani Island is the second largest in the municipality of Guiuan. A majority of the residents in these four barangays—Banaag, San Jose, Buenavista and Hamorawon, have been demanding since February the scrapping of an agreement entered into by the Eastern Samar provincial government and the HMC that allows the firm to mine nickel ore on the island.

Their effort, however, did not bear fruit as Guiuan Mayor Fernando Naputo issued a business permit for the HMC to resume its operations on Sept. 21 last year.

Protest urged vs Napocor

DIGOS CITY—An electric cooperative has called on residents to voluntarily shut off their power supply for 30 minutes on Monday (May 7) to show their opposition to the National Power Corp.'s (Napocor) collection of power purchase adjustment (PPA) rate.

Elmer Bautista, general manager of the Cotabato Electric Cooperative, said the weeklong, daily power shut-off, starting at 7:30 p.m. would send a strong signal that consumers are united against excessive and unfair add-ons on their electric bills.

"Even members of the electric cooperative association have vigorously protested this additional charges, because we know that it is the consumers who are suffering the most," Bautista said.

The PPA, which is being charged by Napocor to defray the cost of its contract with independent power producers (IPPs), comprises about 71 percent of the total electric bill of consumers.

Bautista said they could not see the rationale in imposing the charges. Mindanao, he said, is not dependent on power produced by IPPs, which makes the PPA unfair.

Bautista said the protest action was nearly successful in Bacolod City.

He urged the government to review its policy on IPPs, because instead of helping consumers, the independent power producers are adding to their burden. *Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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ESCAPE FEARED

Visayas hail arrest of Erap allies

LOCAL officials as well as militant and church leaders in Negros Occidental and Iloilo supported moves of the Macapagal administration to arrest allies of former President Joseph Estrada who were accused of inciting a mob to storm Malacañang on Tuesday.

Bishop Vicente Navarra of the Kabankalan and Bacolod dioceses said the orders to arrest Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson were necessary.

"They are responsible for the bloodshed and anarchy yesterday," he said, "and (they) have to answer for what they have done."

Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor said he was "saddened and frustrated" by the actuation of his cousin, Ilonggo Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

"I thought she realized that it is wrong to side with Estrada," Defensor said over radio station dyOK in Iloilo City.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada called on the police and the military to remain vigilant and secure all exit points because key opposition leaders were capable of fleeing the country despite hold departure orders issued against them.

"These personalities have the capability to pay their way out of the country using their huge financial resources and influence, which they continue to wield over certain individuals and groups," said Lozada, a member of the National Security Council.

He said the opposition leaders could also hire private planes or yachts to elude arrest.

"This is especially true with the pronouncement of the justice department that the charge of sedition is a nonbailable offense. The conspirators of the Labor Day siege on the Palace would most likely flee the country than languish in jail," he said.

Julius Mariveles, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general in Negros Occidental, said the government should also arrest Estrada's cronies, and not just Enrile, Lacson and Santiago, because they were the ones who financed "ready-made rallies." He did not identify these cronies.

A multi-sectoral coalition dubbed as "Alyansa para sa Demokrasya Sandig sa Hustisya kag Kamatuuran (Alliance for Democracy Based on Justice and Truth or Adhika) vowed to wage a campaign against what it called "forces of disinformation and violent action to thwart the delivery of swift justice."

The group promised to actively campaign against Enrile and Santiago so they could not return to the Senate.

"We are calling on all Filipinos, particularly the citizens of Bacolod City and Negros, to unite to preserve and defend our democratic institutions through the active pursuit of truth and justice," Adhika-Negros said in a statement.

"We are saddened that many protesters and police were killed and injured during the clashes. We demand the immediate arrest of all the criminal instigators, agitators and financiers. They must be held accountable for directing, funding and agitating the mob of Estrada loyalists," said Jeffrey Celiz, chair of Bayan in Panay.

Celiz said the "insane minds behind the senseless orgy of violence" should be jailed to prevent more violence.

"Heads must roll," said Dr. Kristin Treñas, one of the leaders of the Ilonggo Solidarity Campaign to Oust Estrada as President (I Scrap Erap).

"The instigators shamelessly used legitimate grievances of the mostly urban poor crowd for their own personal agenda," she said.

The Communist Party of the Philippines also joined calls for the arrest and prosecution of opposition leaders accused of instigating the Malacañang attack.

In an e-mailed statement released yesterday by Ang Bayan, the CPP's official organ, CPP national spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said Enrile's arrest and of the "others who instigated this plot must be followed up by imposing on them the maximum penalty."

"The Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army and the entire revolutionary movement condemn in the strongest terms the Estrada clique's vile demagoguery in inciting the people and using them as cannon fodder in its evil attempt to attack Malacañang and reinstate Estrada to power," Rosal said in a statement dated May 1.

Rosal, however, said the police and the military should also answer for "the many cases of brutality that transpired during the dispersal operation."

"The people who joined in the Edsa II uprising must maintain militancy and vigilance to ensure that the Estrada clique shall be held accountable not only for this scheme but for their crimes committed under the Estrada regime," he said.

Rosal said the Macapagal administration must also take decisive steps to "address and resolve the poverty, oppression and other basic problems of the people."

"Macapagal-Arroyo's failure to do this in her first 100 days of governance was a major factor for the masses' meager support for her government and for the ease with which demagogues like Estrada were able to deceive the people," he said. *Carla Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr. and PDI Visayas Bureau*

Cadets sent to civilian jail for hazing case

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Two Philippine Military Academy cadets, accused of murder for the March 10 hazing death of Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo, have been taken to the Baguio City jail where they are now benefiting from penology reforms that were tested there.

Cadets Third Class John Louie Ong and Michael Perang are the first PMA cadets to be imprisoned in a civilian jail for a "traditional" military crime, said lawyer Edgar Bolcio, the city warden.

Most PMA hazing cases that have gone public were addressed by a military tribunal, he said.

City Prosecutor Erdolfo Balajadia said the cadets, who were previously detained at the PMA stockade, were more fearful about spending time in a civilian jail while their case is being tried.

But Bolcio stressed that the cadets' imprisonment was "fortunately timed with a new jail program that attempts to apply rehabilitation techniques here."

Inmates here said they are experiencing a more relaxed time in their jailhouse, which offers a "dormitory lifestyle."

Ong and Perang have been bunking since April 20 in Cell No. 2, whose eight inmates include four police officers. Most of the cadets' cellmates are facing murder charges.

The cell was fashioned after a makeshift dormitory room. Double-decked beds dominate the cell with a circular clock facing the bars. Most of the inmates lounge on soft, cotton Cordillera blankets.

The cells here look freshly painted in a blue-green hue, although only the regular ceiling lights keep the jail bright.

Ong and Perang appeared alert inside Cell No. 2, their head shaved clean to distinguish them from other inmates.

Bolcio said the two cadets kept to themselves, spending more time reading their PMA course books in anticipation of their re-entry to the academy.

"They consider themselves victims of injustice. I have talked to them. I already noticed their agitation when they first stepped into their cell. But I have been advising them. I have kept them with police officers who will treat them professionally. It normally takes a full month for any inmate to be completely assimilated in any jail, so I am guiding them slowly," he said.

Bolcio said the reform program cuts down on the regimented rules which had "repressed" inmates here before his time.

"We want to erase all their (imagined) burdens, which often spark riots or jailbreaks. This is a management style. We know Philippine jails have (obtained a reputation) as flea-ridden filth houses and that is probably true with our bigger jails in Metro Manila," he said.

"But this jail will be different. We will treat them all like VIPs (very important persons), as human beings, so they will realize their personal values, their personal worth," Bolcio said.

Both cadets are more relaxed compared to their first day in prison, he said.

In fact, Ong and Perang can now manage to smile whenever they socialize inside the jail, says Edmund, their fellow inmate who turned out to be a former PMA cadet himself.

"What bothers them most is the media attention attached to their case, otherwise, they are more relaxed now. It's a good thing I am a former cadet. I understand what they must be going through. I was going through it myself here," he said.

New gov't statistics show Northern Luzon population rate down

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The population growth of Northern Luzon is slowing down while Central Luzon has been picking up the huddled masses of Metro Manila, a preliminary report of the National Statistics Office's 2000 census showed.

The growth rates of Cordillera, Ilocos and Cagayan Valley are below the annual national rate of 2.34 percent from 1990 to 2000. If it was any consolation, the growth rates of the three regions in the past five years were higher than in 1990 to 1995.

The population of Central Luzon rose by 2.62 percent annually in the past 10 years and even rose by 3.2 percent from 1995 to 2000.

Bulacan, Bataan and Nueva Ecija had growth rates higher than normal, with Bulacan rising by an alarming 4.93 percent in the past five years and 4.02 percent in the past 10 years.

The population of Cordillera as of May 2000 is 1,365,220, up from 1,254,838 in September 1995 or an average of 1.76 annual growth rate for the past 10 years.

Baguio City, whose growth rate actually rose by 4.09 percent from 1990 to 1995 despite the July 1990 earthquake, steadied to 2.31 percent in the past five years.

The only provinces that posted significant population increase in the Cordillera are Apayao (2.66 percent in the past 10 years) and Kalinga (2.41 percent).

The effect of the mining slump was apparent in Itogon, Benguet where the population dropped from 61,773 in 1990 to only 46,705 in 2000, and in Mankayan town where the population growth dropped to 0.67 percent in the past five years.

Benguet (0.87 percent) and Ifugao (0.93 percent) almost had a steady population growth since 1990.

The Ilocos region, except for Pangasinan that still ranks among the most populous provinces in the country, almost posted steady gains in population.

The Ilocos now has a population of 4,200,478 from 3,803,890 in 1995.

Ilocos Norte now has a population of 514,241 or four times its population before World War II, while Ilocos Sur has 594,206.

Ilocos Sur's two new cities, Candon and Vigan, posted a population increase of only 1.52 percent and 1.58 percent, respectively, in the past 10 years.

Of the four provinces in the Ilocos, only Pangasinan posted an above average gain in the past five years with a 2.41 percent growth rate.

Pangasinan now has a population of 2,434,086.

Dagupan City, which like Baguio has been affected by the 1990 earthquake, posted a steady growth rate of 0.64 percent. Its neighbors Mangaldan, San Fabian, San Jacinto and Calasiao picked up the slack for Dagupan.

Cagayan Valley's population also rose by 1.86 percent from 1990 with Quirino (2.67 percent) and Nueva Vizcaya (1.99 percent) posting the highest rates.

Cagayan Valley now has a total population of 2,813,159, which can be overtaken by Pangasinan in the next 10 years.

Central Luzon has now reached the eight million mark with a population of 8,030,945 or an increase of almost two million since 1990 (6,199,017).

The phenomenal growth of Bulacan is so telling that only one town, Obando, out of the total 25, posted a growth rate lower than the norm.

San Jose del Monte City even grew by 10.12 percent in the past five years followed by Norzagaray at 9.21 percent and Marilao at 8.59 percent.

Bulacan's 2000 population of 2,234,088 is a big leap from 1990's population of 1,505,219.

Another bustling province is Nueva Ecija, which saw its population rose from 1,659,883 last year from 1,312,680 in 1990.

KITE
For SaLe
DCT

SUMMER HOBBY GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

Kites start to make their seasonal appearance on the streets of Davao City. These ones sell for P160 on V. Mapa Street.

Bandits free village chief for ₱3M

LAMITAN, Basilan—After paying P3 million and guns in ransom, kidnapped barangay chair Jovito McLintock was released by his abductors in Tuburan town Monday night.

McLintock was abducted in Barangay Balagtasan here on March 18. The military said the abductors, led by a certain Muhay and Jalali, do not belong to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or the Abu Sayyaf.

MILF commander Usman Lidjal helped secure the release of McLintock.

"I had a good brief stay with them (Lidjal's group). They fed me well. They were the ones who saved me from those money-oriented captors," McLintock said.

The barangay chair said they were always on the run during his captivity.

"I almost committed suicide because of desperation and distress. I really wanted to go home to my family. I was very tired and was always hungry. I decided to end my life by hanging myself, fortunately one of my watchers saw me and cut the rope," he said.

"I am very, very happy. I was not able to eat, I just prayed and prayed. Now, I don't care about the millions of pesos given to the kidnappers, what is important now is the release of my husband," Benita, the barangay chair's wife, said.

McLintock's son-in-law, Dr. Pilardo Perez, was killed by the suspects during the abduction.

"All I want now is justice for my son-in-law, but I'm still praying hard to Jesus Christ that he'll enlighten the minds of these kidnappers," he said. *Julie Alipala-Inot and Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Batanes group of islands will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 35° Lo 25°	**Baguio** HI 26° Lo 17°	**Tuguegarao** HI 35° Lo 23°	**Laoag** HI 34° Lo 22°
Clark Zone HI 35° Lo 25°	**Tagaytay** HI 34° Lo 24°	**Legazpi** HI 34° Lo 26°	**Calapan** HI 34° Lo 25°
Bacolod HI 34° Lo 23°	**Roxas** HI 33° Lo 25°	**Cebu** HI 33° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 34° Lo 24°	**Zamboanga** HI 33° Lo 25°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 33° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 33° Lo 25°

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Comelec urged to put Laoag in its control

LAOAG CITY—The Commission on Elections in Ilocos Norte declared this city as an area of immediate concern for the May 14 elections following a shootout between supporters of rival camps in the mayoral race here on Tuesday.

Noli Pipo, provincial election supervisor, said they would request the Comelec national office to place the city under its control due to rising tension between the camps of reelectionist Mayor Roger Fariñas and Col. Wilfred Nicolas, former chief of the defunct Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau.

Pipo issued the statement after meeting with Supt. Romeo Espiritu, Ilocos Norte police director, and Supt. Jesus Castro, Laoag police director, to assess the political situation here.

The provincial police office, Pipo said, has sent a platoon of policemen from the provincial mobile group in this city to prevent further violence.

"Laoag is under control. We just hope that this will not happen again. (Officials of the) Philippine National Police have assured (us) that they will intensify checkpoints during night-time in the villages and in all towns (in Ilocos Norte)," Pipo said.

Killed during the shootout in Barangay Calayab here was retired Army Sgt. Rogelio de Pedro, a supporter of Nicolas. Police said Teodoro Centeno, a city government employee and a supporter of Fariñas, was wounded in the shootout.

De Pedro, who was holding an M-16 Armalite rifle when his body was found inside a car, was hit below the right ear. Centeno has been taken to a hospital here for treatment of a bullet wound in his left eye.

Espiritu could not say how many supporters from both camps were involved in the shootout.

He said before the incident, one Joseph Balais, who identified himself as Nicolas' coordinator, called up their headquarters and reported that he was being harassed by Fariñas' supporters. *Cristina Arzadon and Kira Espino with a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Sagada villages off-limits to bets

BAGUIO CITY—Two of the frontrunners in the election in Mt. Province have been barred by residents from campaigning in at least six villages in northern Sagada because of perceived partiality in the recent tribal war there.

Former Mt. Province Rep. Victor Dominguez, who hopes to replace his wife Josephine in the lone congressional district in the province, and reelectionist Gov. Leonard Mayaen are warned through streamers not to campaign in the villages of Fidelisan, Pide, Aguid, Madungo, Bangaan and Tanulong.

Dominguez and Mayaen, reports said, were thought to have favored the Dalican tribe in the tribal conflict with the Fidelisan tribe of northern Sagada over water rights. Dalican is located in northern Bontoc, the province's capital.

"Dominguez and Mayaen are not allowed to enter," one streamer hung in a village said in Kankanaey.

The fight for water rights between the upstream Fidelisan and downstream Dalican started in late 1998. Members of both tribes were shot at by the other as they try to draw water from the creek located in the villages' boundary.

In January 1999, tribal elders from both tribes agreed to end the dispute over control of water.

"Tribal war is a primitive way of attaining justice and settling disputes. It has no room in the new society," said a manifesto signed by representatives of the warring tribes.

But as the reported barring of Dominguez and Mayaen showed, the conflict has not yet been extinguished.

Dominguez is facing his cousin, lawyer Roy Pilando, for the congressional race while Mayaen is facing four others, including Dominguez's nephew, former Tadian Mayor Harry Dominguez, in the gubernatorial race.

In Abra, Board Member Ernesto "Dragon" Pacuño Sr., one of the government's negotiators for the release of foreign hostages from the Abu Sayyaf bandits last year, is likewise barred from campaigning in some remote areas of the province controlled by the New People's Army.

Pacuño is facing Abra Rep. Vicente Valera in the gubernatorial race.

The prohibition, reports said, was imposed by the NPA because of Pacuño's military background.

Pacuño, a retired colonel, was the government's "secret weapon" in the release of the foreign hostages in Basilan and Sulu last year.

Reports said the NPA's Agustin Begnalen Command operating in Abra did not issue a "permit to campaign (PTC)" to Pacuño.

The PTC, an INQUIRER source said, is bought for P75,000 to P150,000 and allows candidates to campaign in NPA-influenced areas.

Valera replaced his wife, incumbent Gov. Ma. Zita Valera, in the gubernatorial race so he could face Pacuño.

Governor Valera would be running as mayor of the capital town of Bangued. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

4 killed in ambush on mayoral candidate

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Four persons were killed while three others were wounded when a mayoral candidate and his companions were ambushed in T'boli, South Cotabato early Wednesday.

Former T'boli vice mayor Salvador Ramos, People Power Coalition official mayoral bet in the said town, survived the 7:30 a.m. ambush in Sitio Lungga, Barangay Basag.

Killed were reelectionist town councilor Marivic Tanco, John Mark Provido, Marcie Lawa and a still unidentified barangay official.

Wounded were Barangay Lambangan chair Abraham Malunes, Rogelio Batuat and Oner Telang. They were reported to be in critical condition while undergoing treatment at the Doctor's Hospital here.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, chief of the 601st Infantry Brigade, said Ramos and his group were on their way to an adjacent village when armed men fired at their convoy of vehicles and motorcycles.

Jimmy Salanuda, one of the survivors, told a local radio station that they were on their way to Barangay Titik when the suspects flagged down those who were riding the motorcycles, and asked for Ramos.

"After confirming that vice mayor Ramos was with us, the suspects retreated a few meters away then started firing at us," Salanuda said.

Magsino ordered a manhunt against the suspects, reportedly led by a certain Commander Roy of a renegade group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rally veterans see Left victim of May 1 riot

BAGUIO CITY—Activists who participated in the First Quarter Storm (FQS) in 1971 agreed that the May 1 riot's more immediate casualty could have been the militant Left.

Residents here recalled the very first violent siege on Malacañang on Jan. 30, 1971 by student activists "mouthing Left-wing rhetoric," after viewing the Tuesday violence in Mendiola over television.

"We thought the Left has control over the *masa*? Where were they (on May 1)? They should have come in to stop these people from rioting," a 55-year-old market vendor here said in Ilocano.

1971 was the year when student activists stormed Malacañang to challenge the administration of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, sparking a three-month long skirmish between the youth and the Marcos-controlled military, said Manny Loste, an FQS veteran.

The FQS had its own fatalities, including Pastor Mesina, a University of the Philippines student who was shot dead by a Math professor when UP Diliman was besieged by activists, according to a Feb. 5, 1971 copy of the "Bandilang Pula," the newsletter of the Diliman Commune.

Parallelisms

Loste admitted that obvious parallelisms between the FQS and the May 1 riot could mislead people into mistrusting the Left and future street marches.

Loste is the Cordillera coordinator of the political group, Bayan Muna, which is among the contenders in the party-list race.

"Marcos used the violence as a propaganda instrument to discredit the First Quarter Stormers. The public was divided when Marcos raised the destructive (nature) of the activists. (People) could misunderstand (because) people were scared (in 1971) and they could be scared again (following the televised violence of May 1)," Loste said.

The May 1 riot will, in fact, prompt Left-wing organizations to review their agenda, a former student leader predicted.

"The riot will force the Left to reinvent itself. After all, aren't they supposed to represent the *masa*? Didn't they claim to have the support of the *masa*? That riot hit them worst because it revealed just how different the times are these days," said Jose Nicolas Ilagan, a veteran of UP activism here that sprung simultaneously with the events of the FQS in Metro Manila.

Checkmate

"The Left found itself cornered by a checkmate when the riot started. It hurt the Left. They couldn't react because the (Estrada supporters) were their traditional bailiwicks. Now, the (Left are) the ones condemning (the Estrada uprising). That is strange (especially with human rights groups now condemning President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of rebellion in Metro Manila)," Ilagan said.

Former journalist Swanny Dicang said the Baguio public always nurtured a "notorious aversion to street demonstrations."

"People in Baguio never liked street militancy, so when you talk to residents here, they will taunt you about the extreme effects of these militant marches," he told the INQUIRER.

But Loste stressed "the obvious differences" between the 1971 riot and the "mindless violence" last Tuesday.

"During the FQS, the public was not confused about who the real victims were. During that siege (at the Palace gates in 1971), the victims were clearly the students who were shot at by the military. The rioters were also victims, but victims of their own leaders (who abandoned them). The people who watched the televised footage of the riot are not supporting that May 1 riot," Loste said.

Politicized

"I have been an activist for a long time. The militants are always politicized (recruits). They do not march without understanding the ideology and the principles behind these marches. The (so-called Poor People Power) movement at the Edsa Shrine had no leaders and were obviously used as cannon fodder," he said.

"For an activist like me, that was even scarier. To see people being easily manipulated to run riot in the streets," Loste said.

Ilagan said the riot involved a "new breed of the *masa*," which the Left may not have complete understanding of.

"This is the urban-setting *masa*. This is not the type of poor people we have in the countryside. You don't have that here in Baguio. This type of poor can be incendiary. All you have to do is ignite them. If you forget the fact that the (Estrada supporters) were manipulated, they can taint the progress of even People Power," Ilagan said.

"But put in proper perspective, the public can easily arrive at a better definition of what People Power really is. People Power, after all, gave full meaning to the Left's street activism against Marcos," he said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

OWWA Administrator

Wilhelm Dabu Soriano: simply "WDS"

BY MARIE CRUZ

ADMIN Wilhelm D. Soriano says "It is a nice feeling to be back in a place where you are most welcome by your colleagues and clients." This he revealed in a recent press conference at the coffee shop of Café Ilustrado last April 24, 2001

MESSAGES

I EXTEND my warmest felicitations to the men and women at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) as they celebrate their 19th anniversary.

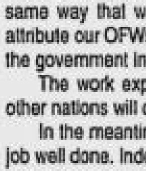
With more than 7 million Filipino migrant workers deployed in almost 200 countries worldwide, the OWWA has managed to extend welfare assistance through the provision of various programs and services focusing on the workers' protection and well-being.

Even as we hail the efforts of the Agency to ensure that Filipino workers abroad are getting the full mantle of protection from the government, it is still our fervent wish that overseas employment will just be an option to the Filipinos in the future. It is in the same way that we look forward to the day when "best" Filipino workforce, as we attribute our OFWs, be encouraged to practice their craft at home and directly support the government in building a more progressive country.

The work experience and the skills they nurtured and perfected while serving other nations will certainly aid the cause of the Filipino nation for a better tomorrow.

In the meantime, let me reiterate my sincere congratulations to the OWWA for a job well done. Indeed, you have fulfilled your mission to serve the needs of the OFWs and their families. And this is because you have demonstrated heart and passion in your commitment to serve your countrymen especially in times they need it most.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Employment (DOLE) sends its best wishes to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) a member of the DOLE family, as they celebrate their 19th anniversary.

As provided for in our Constitution, the government respects the right of every Filipino to travel abroad in search of "greener pasture." Labor migration, however, is only an alternative course of employment to our Filipino job-seekers. Knowing how family-oriented Filipinos are, they are bound to come home to their respective families and join them to savor the fruits of their overseas stints.

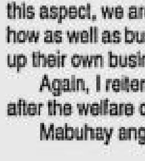
In the meantime, the Philippines is the only labor-sending country in the world that has a welfare agency like the OWWA that readily responds to the migrant workers' respective needs. In addition to this, the agency has also in place pro-active programs and skills enhancement in preparation for eventual homecoming of the workers.

While we put up measures to ensure that our workers are well-protected abroad and provide them with benefits due them and their families we are likewise in the process of doing preparation for their absorption in the mainstream of our society. In this aspect, we are one with the OWWA to equip our workers with the technical know-how as well as business counseling and other entrepreneurial skills that help them put up their own business in case their contacts expire.

Again, I reiterate my congratulations to OWWA for their significant role in looking after the welfare of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

Mabuhay ang OFWs. Mabuhay ang OWWA!

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)



ISANG masiglang pagbati ang ating ipinaabot sa lahat ng ating mga kababayang nagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa kaugnay ng ika-19 na taong anibersaryo ng Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Nakatutuwang isipin na sa paglipas ng halos dalawang dekada ay natugunan ng ahensiya ang tungkulin nitong pangalagaan at bigyan ng kaukulang proteksyon ang kalalagayan ng ating mga migranteng manggagawang Filipino. Sa pag-usad din ng panahon ay naging kaagapay ang OWWA ng mga overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) sa paghabi ng kanilang mga pangarap na bigyan ng magandang kinabukasan ang kanilang mga mahal sa buhay.

Sa taong ito, ang pagdiriwang ng pagkakatatag ng ahensiya 19 na taon na ang nakalilipas ay nakasentro sa temang "Nagpupugay sa Talino ng OFWs at Kanilang Mga Pamilya." Ito ay isang pagpapatunay sa pagbibigay-halaga at parangal hindi lamang sa mga kapakipakinabang naibibigay ng ating mga OFWs kung hindi ang ating pagsuporta maging sa kanilang pamilya.

Batid natin na kaalinsabay ng pag-unlad ng ahensiya ang mas maraming pagsubok na susuungin at ang karagdagang taon ay hudyat ng panibagong pagsubok tungo sa mas higit na matatag at makabuluhang pagseserbisyo sa kapwa.

Maligayang pagbati, OWWA at mabuhay ang OFWs!

WILHELM D. SORIANO
Administrator
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA)

TODAY marks the 19th anniversary of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). Nineteen years of extending welfare service to more or less 7 million overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in at least 200 countries around the world. This day will indeed be very special both for the officers and employees of the Agency and to hundreds of migrant workers the Agency served at the job sites and their families here at the home front.

An OFW-friendly Agency

According to OWWA Administrator Wilhelm D. Soriano, this year's anniversary theme "Nagpupugay sa Talino ng mga OFWs at Kanilang mga Pamilya," is a fitting tribute to the outstanding and world-class performance by the Filipino workers employed abroad.

Although the amiable OWWA chief is amenable to the fact that the migrant workers' personal and social obligations are somewhat affected as a result of their separation from their families, he stressed that this is the area where the Agency's networking with the religious organizations and non-government organizations (NGOs) come in handy.

"We seek the assistance of the Catholic Bishop of the Philippines, the Scalabrini and other religious organizations to serve as spiritual guide to families of the OFWs who are left here in the country. This is very evident, Soriano added, during OWWA's various activities like the "Family Day" celebration where they actively participate and encourage the OFWs to take part in these worthwhile projects.

On the other hand, the OWWA head said he is bent on fostering a more solid relationship with the various sectors of the society including the NGOs to be able to reach out to more OFWs.

"What we want is for OWWA to be more accessible not only to its clients but the public in general. We can do this by reinventing our existing programs to suit the needs of the migrant workers and their families. *Isang ahensiyang madaling lapitan dahil alam mong ang nilalapitan mo ay parang isang kapamilya*," Soriano enthused.

Management Style

Despite his impressive educational background and qualifications including his vast experience in the government service, Atty. Wilhelm Soriano's distinct management style continue to draw admiration from the Agency's officers and employees.

During the simple turn-over ceremony held last March 23, 2001 at the 10th floor of the OWWADEC, the 'comebacking' Administrator was visibly elated over the display of warm welcome and high esteem people from the Agency accorded to him.

Says he: "It is a nice feeling to be back in a place where you are most welcome by your colleagues and clients."

"Beebong," as Soriano is called by his close associates, has brought into his present position a wealth of experience in government service. Before his first appointment to head the Agency in 1995, he was executive director of the Employees Compensation Commission (ECC), director of the Department of Health and senior revenue enforcement officer and revenue officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Born to the late Pangasinan Congressman and Mrs. Jack Soriano, 'Admin,' another pet name of Soriano . belongs to a socially and politically prominent family in San Carlos, Pangasinan. His elder brother, Douglas, was a former mayor of San Carlos City, a position he held for three consecutive terms.

A lawyer by profession, he took his elementary education at the San Carlos Central School, high school at the San Carlos College, his Bachelor of Science in Commerce at Luzon Colleges, Bachelor of Arts at San Sebastian College and Bachelor of Laws at the University of the East. He is a government specialist fellow at the JVO Institute of Business and Government, Ateneo de Manila University. A loving husband, he is married to the former Maria Leah C. Lazo. The partnership produced three lovable kids.

As an effective leader, Soriano said his style is management by example. As head of a welfare agency, Admin believes that much is expected from him. It is not enough that the Agency extend assistance to bona fide OWWA contributors. According to him, even non-OWWA members run to the agency at the onset of job-related problems is mandated by R.A. 8042.

ADMIN Wilhelm D. Soriano congratulates OFW hero Christopher Manalo. Mr. Manalo was recently conferred the "Rescue Award" medal for heroically saving an elderly Japanese lady from her burning house in Kumamoto Dist.,

OWWA and its objectives

As the government agency tasked to protect and promote the welfare and well-being of the OFWs, the OWWA provides social and welfare services including insurance coverage, cultural services and other assistance related to its mandate.

Just like any other government entity, OWWA's programs and services are applicable to its members and non-members, except for the economic benefits in the latter's case.

WDS said that whenever a migrant worker is beset with problems on the job site, the government is ready to provide assistance regardless of his employment status. Whether he is a documented or undocumented worker, as long as he is Filipino, assistance is readily provided. This policy, Soriano stressed, is contained in the government's scheme of a "one country team approach" where the condition of the worker is far more important than his employment status, after all.

Soriano explained: "*Parehas lamang ang tingin natin sa mga migranteng manggagawang Filipino sa isang bansa. Nagkakaiba lamang ang kanilang kategorya paglabas ng Ninoy Aquino International Airport* (NAIA). One of OWWA's mandates is the viability of the fund. Hence, those who are OWWA members are eligible to avail of financial, medical, livelihood and educational benefits plus the full mantle of protection. On the other hand, non-OWWA members are nontheless entitled to Repatriation/Airport Assistance programs. Realistically speaking, however, OWWA noted that non-documented migrant workers comprise the larger portion of distressed workers.

Year-round hassle-free treatment

One of Admin's priorities in his second stint with the Agency is the provision of a year-round hassle-free treatment accorded to returning/going OFWs. In a recent interview with the media, he underscores the importance of this component to strengthen the government's commitment to provide red-carpet treatment to OFWs not only during the holiday season but on a daily basis. He added that he already had a preliminary meeting with the NAIA management to discuss this matter.

"*Mas maganda kasi na maging aware ang mga OFWs sa ating OWWA Repatriation Team na nakastation sa NAIA so every time that they encounter even a simple problem, meron silang matatakbuhan agad*," Soriano avers.

OWWA's full decentralization

As part of OWWA's commitment to be more accessible to the people it serves, a big number of whom come from the provinces, the Agency is now fully decentralized.

As a result of the decentralization, hundreds of OFWs and their families were the beneficiaries of the scheme. Normally, it takes about 2 to 3 weeks to process the various applications of OFWs relative to the Agency's programs and services in the regional offices since vital requirements and pertinent documents are submitted in the main office in Pasay City for evaluation.

Claims are also issued in the head office making it hard for clients who come from far flung areas to follow-up their respective applications. Although the agency has drawn up mechanisms to speed up processing of various claims, the agency must also abide by certain rules. This scheme of full decentralization, therefore, is a welcome development to both the migrant workers and their families.

Training/professionalizing OWWA welfare officers/ welfare coordinators

In a bid to intensify its drive to professionalize and further strengthen the capability of the OWWA officers assigned abroad, the government agency has drawn measures to upgrade their skills and ability to handle various situations confronting migrant workers.

OWWA Welfare Officers, backed up by Welfare Coordinators are deployed at the Filipino Workers Resource Centers to look after the well-being of migrant workers encountering job-related problems in their respective host countries. However, male Welfare Officers or Welofs are deployed in countries considered to be "high risk" in terms of religious beliefs as well as their culture and tradition which is very much different from the Philippines.

Soriano said that in the Middle East countries for example, mobility of female officials are somewhat hampered by its unnatural working conditions and situations. Thus, OWWA is likely to field male officers who are more free to represent, negotiate and make arrangement with the host countries official counter parts.

In line with this, Admin added that OWWA makes sure that female problems are dealt with by female officials, the reason why only female runaways are housed at the FWRCs. Moreover, all OWWA officials posted abroad are recalled to Manila once a year for a duration of one week to be able to undergo training and development to refresh and "re-tool" and prepare themselves to face rigors of their jobs.

Preparation for the OFWs homecoming

However, despite the government's earnest effort to provide the "best" programs and services to 'Pinoy' migrant workers, it is still the government's vision, Admin enthused, to make overseas employment just an option to Filipinos.

Thus, OFWs at the job sites are provided with various training and skills enhancement by agency personnel to prepare for their homecoming and eventual reintegration with the society.

Meanwhile, OWWA also has in place, services designed to ensure that families of the OFWs are well taken cared of. Aside from study grants extended to the beneficiaries of the OWWA member, a day is also scheduled every year where the OFWs and their families get the chance to celebrate as "family."

The Family Day celebration is one of Soriano's innovation programs during his first term in the agency.

"*Marami pa po tayong mga plano para sa ating mga OFWs. Isa na po rito ang mabigyan sila ng ikabubuhay far beyond sa kanilang kontrata sa abroad*," he said.

Soriano believes that one of the secrets or weapons of the OWWA's successful implementation of its programs and services is the continued support and full cooperation of the Agency's officers and employees.

2nd, 4th placers come from Ateneo de Davao

(From page A1)

lowest in the history of the bar exams. In 1981 the passing rate was a record 43.71 percent.

Zuñiga, who scored 90.6 percent, had only a .05 percent edge over Lopoz, who scored 90.55.

Lopoz wanted to become a doctor but enrolled at the AdDU law school after finding fees in medical school "prohibitive."

Carpenter's son

His classmate and buddy, fourth placer Largo, is the son of a carpenter and a sari-sari storeowner. He had to live in such destitute circumstances while in Manila to take the bar that he was stricken with dengue fever and was hospitalized days before the last Sunday of the exams.

The exams were held last Sept. 3, 10, 17 and 24 at the De La Salle University in Manila.

Now the two men are the toasts of the legal community in Davao City, getting all the accolades from politicians who scrambled to be seen with them.

Lopoz, a registered nurse, supported himself through law school as a legal staffer and as consultant of a city councilor.

AdDU College of Law dean, Hildegardo Iñigo, had spotted Lopoz as a bright student who was valedictorian of Batch 2000.

"Note that Dexter is only a point away from the UP bar topnotcher. Had Dexter listened better to my lessons, he would have topped the bar," said Iñigo, himself a No. 8 bar topnotcher in 1966, as he proudly presented yesterday the new legal eagles from AdDU.

Lopoz was offered by the Accra Law Davao office an associate position in February which he readily took. But Lopoz said he plans to go back to his hometown in Montevista, Compostela Valley, after five years in Accra Law "because there are no lawyers in our town and the people there badly need lawyers."

Largo is a case study of how sheer determination succeeds. Before leaving for the bar examinations in Manila in September last year, Largo's wife, Joy, gave birth on Aug. 9.

"The money I saved for the bar was almost wiped out because we had to spend it for Joy's (caesarian) operation and medication. I only had P10,000 in my pocket when I went to Manila," recalled Largo, who now works as the legal officer of the Cooperative Development Authority.

Davao-based bar examinees need an average of P50,000 to be able to stay in a decent place conducive for studying.

With meager resources, Largo decided to stay with a relative in a congested and dengue-infested urban poor community in Malibay, Pasay City.

Fund drive

Five days before the last Sunday of the bar for the exam on Remedial Law, one of the most complicated and hardest subjects in the bar, Largo caught dengue.

His relative rushed him to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), which was filled with patients at that time.

A classmate, who was also taking the bar, dropped by and saw his condition—sitting in a corner reading the Rules of Court while holding his dextrose bottle with his other hand.

Largo's brothers and sisters at the Tau Mu fraternity organized a fund drive for his medication and his transfer to the Manila Doctors Hospital.

His politician "brods" also extended some help to defray the P10,000 hospital bill.

Three days before the Sunday exam, the doctors discharged him. But by Sunday, he was broke, with only P500 in his pocket.

"Because of that experience, I promised the Lord that I will use my law education to help the poor by providing them free legal services," Largo said.

Largo plans to stay in government for at least three years. He also plans to put up a law firm while getting himself actively involved in nongovernment organizations and groups providing legal aid for the poor.

Low-profile topnotcher

Also a married man with a daughter, Zuñiga is employed in a law firm in Metro Manila.

Unlike Lopoz, he was not the class valedictorian or among the top five students of the UP College of Law who graduated in April last year.

His name was listed as No. 979, the last number in the list of those who passed the 2000 bar exams. His classmates said he was a very low-profile student.

It was the second straight year that UP topped the bar. Last year, a UP law graduate, Florin T. Hilbay, shared first place with Ateneo de Manila's Edwin R. Enrile with an 88.50 percent score.

Five other UP law graduates made it to the top 10. Last year, UP got four slots—the first, seventh, eighth and the ninth.

Top 10

Aside from Zuñiga, Lopoz and Largo, those who made it to the top 10 were (from third place to the 10th place):

Jean G. Pantaleon-Pallorina, Ateneo de Manila University (89.20 percent); Joan D. Adaci, UP (88.40 percent); Michael Felipe A. Mercado, San Beda College (88.30 percent); Valerie C. Feria and Princess Lou D. Managuelod, both from UP (88.15 percent); Prudence Angelita A. Kasala, University of Sto. Tomas (87.85); Andrea Antonette A. Sese-Relucio, Ateneo de Manila University (87.80); and Maria Cristina T. Suralvo, UP (87.45 percent).

The results of the Bar exams were released by the Committee on Bar Examinations headed by Supreme Court Justice Minerva P. Gonzaga-Reyes at about 9 p.m.

When the results of the bar exams were posted at about 9 p.m. on Wednesday, bar examiners who were waiting as early as 5 p.m. rushed to the posting board placed just outside the SC's gates.

Jubilation

Howls of jubilation filled the air as bar passers jumped and shouted upon seeing their names on the board.

One of them, Ma. Almira M. Tomampos, a UP graduate, hailed Zuñiga's triumph as proof that the UP College of Law has consistently maintained its dominance over other law schools in the country.

When asked about her feelings, she said: "How could I express in words what I feel today? Well, I think it's beyond words. *Grabe*. I'm very very happy. *Gusto kong magwala* (I want to celebrate)," she said.

Tomampos was only the second law examiner to arrive at the gates of the high court.

Now working at the SGV accounting and law firm, she obtained a degree in economics from a school in her hometown, Cagayan de Oro City, and is the third child among a brood of four. Her parents are both government employees.

The Supreme Court said oath taking would be held at the Philippine International Convention Center at 2:30 p.m. on May 22.

'Consistently erroneous'

PLEASE be informed that the Second and the Fourth Top Placers in the recently released 2000 Bar Examinations are candidates of the Ateneo de Davao (AdDU) University, and not of the Ateneo de Manila (AdMU) University. These are:

Arvin Dexter M. Lopoz, 2nd Place, and Rogelio G. Largo, 4th place.

I know that accuracy of facts is a primary concern of your newspaper, and therefore, it causes me puzzlement how such a simple fact, so carefully and accurately transmitted by the Supreme Court, can still be reported so erroneously in your newspaper. ***(Please see the website of the Supreme Court: www.supremecourt.gov.ph.)***

Moreover, your reporting on the matter has not only been erroneous, but has been consistently erroneous. In the 1998 Bar Examinations, an Ateneo de Davao Candidate, Philip Aaron B. Cruz placed 7th, and your paper reported him as a candidate of the Ateneo de Manila. In the 1999 Bar Examinations, Randy T. Ceniza placed 6th, and again your paper reported him as a candidate of Ateneo de Manila. And now we have the latest similar erroneous report.

I hope that these persistent mistakes, that should be traceable to your typesetter and your editors, merely spring from ignorance and lack of concern to check facts. Serious as these shortcomings are for a newspaper, they can still be more easily corrected than the narrow mind-set that nothing of significance happens outside of Metro Manila.

Finally, hand-in-hand with the sacredness of facts is this cardinal rule of all respectable newspapers and newspapermen: namely, to admit mistakes in as public a manner as it has made the mistakes. It will restore our confidence in your paper if you still believe in and act according to this cardinal rule.

ATTY. HILDEGARDO INIGO
DEAN
College of Law
Ateneo de Davao University

So sorry for our mistake. But we depended for accuracy on the Supreme Court website. The facts were checked and re-checked with the website. It posted the results of the bar exams at about 9:30 p.m. Its website clearly showed that Lopoz was from the Ateneo de Manila University. We rechecked at 11 p.m. It was still the same (See website printout at right). It was only after 11 p.m. that the Supreme Court corrected its website, and by then it was too late for the INQUIRER *to make changes in the story.*—Editors

Supreme Court website as of 11 p.m.

'CENTENNIAL' BAR RESULTS OUT

Nine hundred seventy nine (979) out of 4,698 or 20.84% of examinees have successfully passed the millenium Bar examinations held last September 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2000 at the De La Salle University in Manila.

Eliseo M. Zuñiga, Jr. of the University of the Philippines placed first in the Bar examinations with a weighted average of 90.6%. The other Bar passers who made it to the top ten are the following:

Second Place Arvin Dexter M. Lopoz, AdMU, 90.55%
Third Place Jean G. Pantaleon-Pallorina, AdMU, 89.2%
Fourth Place Rogelio G. Largo, AdMU, 88.55%
Fifth Place Joan D. Adaci, U.P., 88.4%
Sixth Place Michael Felipe A. Mercado, San Beda College, 88.3%
Seventh Place Valerie C. Feria, U.P., 88.15%
Princess Lou D. Managuelod, U.P., 88.15%
Eight Place Prudence Angelita A. Kasala, UST, 87.85%
Ninth Place Andrea Antonette A. Sese-Relucio, AdMU, 87.8%
Tenth Place Maria Cristina T. Suralvo, U.P., 87.45%

The 2000 Bar examinations committee is chaired by Supreme Court Associate Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes, who ensured that the integrity of the Bar Examinations remains intact. Justice Reyes, a native of Sta. Cruz, Laguna, graduated Magna Cum Laude and Valedictorian from the U.P. College of Law in 1954. She served as Court of Appeals associate justice for 12 years until her appointment to the Supreme Court in 1999. In 1996, she was the NCWP Golden Awardee for Women Achiever in Legal Service. Justice Reyes was formerly the Executive Vice-President of the Philippine Women Judges Association.

The Committee on Bar Examinations is further composed of eight bar examiners, namely, Justice Roberto A. Barrios for Political and Public International Law, Atty. Domingo P. Disini, Jr. for Labor and Social Legislations, retired Justice Hector L. Hofileña for Civil Law, Atty. Alicia L. Tomacruz for Taxation, Atty. Justino H. Cacanindin for Mercantile Law, Justice Minita V. Chico-Nazario for Criminal Law, Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez for Remedial Law, and Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales for Legal Ethics and Practical Exercises. Judge Barrios, who graduated with . . .

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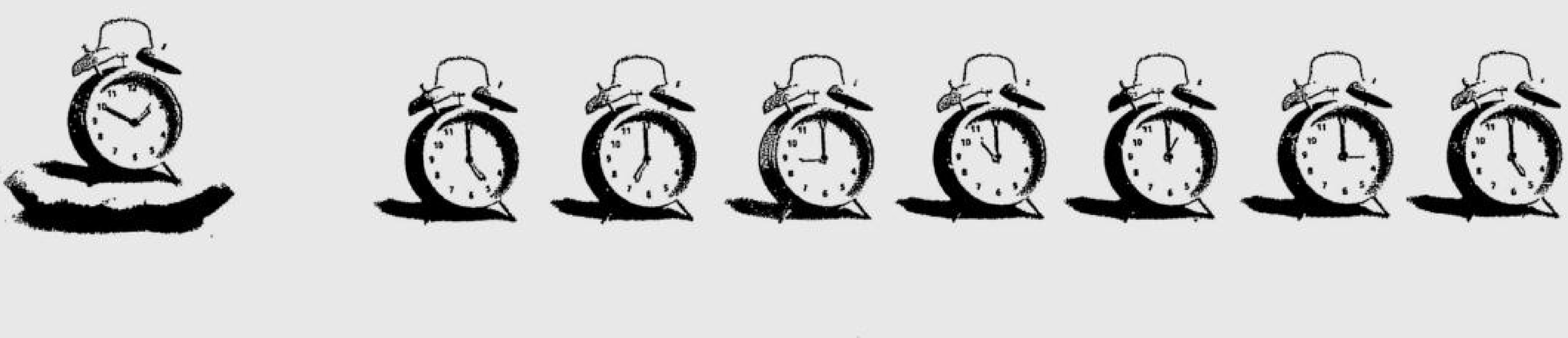

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5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210
5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410
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Erap thanks Gloria for visit

From page A1)

hme President" for visiting him, while inggoy stood behind them.

"It's a good break in the tense atmosphere—that the former President, hom these rioters are using as an isue, could be that civil and cordial," iglao said.

Assistant Press Secretary Roberto 'apco said Ms Macapagal and Estrada eld "absolutely no negotiation" in reation to the current political strife.

When the President arrived in the residential helicopter around noon, strada greeted her with a "Hi!" and a andshake.

The RTVM footage showed a smilg Ms Macapagal standing beside her redecessor near the heavy double-ocked doors of his cell.

Estrada wore a striped yellow polo iirt, and when they shook hands, the ristband with the presidential seal eeked out from beneath his sleeve.

Ms Macapagal quickly withdrew her and.

Vidal's invitation

The President was accompanied by ebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal idal, Estrada's spiritual adviser, who ent to the Palace around 9 a.m. to inte her to go along with him to visit strada, Capco said.

"The President, being a Catholic, greed) and she thought she might as ell see for herself the condition of Mr. strada," he said.

Tiglao said it was a "kind of on-the-spot decision."

"She just took off," Capco told Palace reporters, who learned of the visit only after the presidential helicopter had taken off from Malacañang Park.

Tiglao said that Estrada learned that Ms Macapagal was going to visit him before she arrived.

'Subdued'

Lina said the exchange between Ms Macapagal and Estrada was "subdued. There was the usual exchange of pleasantries."

It was a "cordial visit of a president to a former president who is facing a case before the court," the secretary said in an interview.

Tuesday's siege of Malacañang by Estrada supporters "never came up" in the conversation, he said.

But Lina also said Estrada told him that "what had angered the people was the sight of him being fingerprinted, posing for mug shots, and having so many policemen arresting him."

Lina said Jinggoy's wife Precy was there when the President's party arrived. There was no sight of former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

No remorse or defiance

Ms Macapagal was about to leave the detention center, Estrada employed his charm.

"*Salamat naman at dinalaw ako ng ating Presidente*," Estrada reportedly said.

"It should not be (read as an insult). I can assure you it wasn't made in sarcasm," Tiglao told reporters.

He said Estrada was "neither remorseful nor defiant," adding, "If you've met and known Mr. Estrada, he's not that kind of personality. The best description would be very cordial."

Estrada asked for "some curtains and some amenities that are not really earthshaking," according to Tiglao.

"It was granted. I mean it's a very secure place and there's no problem," Tiglao said.

"The main point was Mr. Estrada again reiterated the possibility (of being placed under) house arrest. The President said that this is precisely the petition filed by his lawyers in the Sandiganbayan and right now (it depends on) the Sandiganbayan's decision," Tiglao said.

No bathroom door

According to Lina, "it was mainly Jinggoy who pointed out the lack of curtains, that one of the cabinets had no door, that the toilet and bath in (his father's) bedroom had no door."

The Estradas also mildly complained that visiting hours—from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.—seemed so short.

Lina said the elder Estrada asked whether the hours could be extended to accommodate his close relatives.

Ms Macapagal granted the request.

Veterans hospital annex

She also later confirmed a plan to build an annex at the Veterans Memorial hospital in Quezon City for Estrada's use during medical checkups.

The former president also asked whether at least two of his former bodyguards from the Presidential Security Group could be reassigned to his security detail, Lina said.

Tiglao said that the meeting was not one of reconciliation since there was "no bad blood" between the former president and former vice president to begin with.

"This is a court case. The President has to really enforce the law. There is really no enmity between them so reconciliation is not a good term," Tiglao said.

He added that there were no "immediate plans" for another such visit.

On house arrest

Former Sen. Rene Saguisag, one of Estrada's lawyers, filed a new position paper yesterday, again urging the Sandiganbayan's 3rd division to place his client under house arrest.

Saguisag cited a newspaper quote of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, who reportedly said that Estrada could be put under house arrest if there were "overriding considerations."

"We submit that there are (overriding considerations). The bloodshed yesterday (May 1) was partly occasioned by the way (Estrada) was treated when arrested before being assigned to a windowless *bartolina* (solitary confinement cell)," Saguisag said, referring to Estrada's previous jail cell at Camp Crame.

"According to him (Estrada) certain courtesies can only reduce the tension and commence some kind of healing process, without compromising justice," he added in the five-page document.

The court earlier directed both the defense and the prosecution to submit their position papers by yesterday so that the issue can be resolved.

Government lawyers failed to meet the deadline. ***With reports from Martin Marfil; AP, AFP; Romulo Ponte PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Lacson: Lumbao ordered march on Palace

From page A1)

owd on April 27 and April 28.

"I could not recall urging the crowd rise up in arms to topple the administation. The tapes are available and these ould show that I did not utter seditious marks," he said in Filipino.

Asked about Lacson's basis in acsing Lumbao, a spokesperson of the rmer PNP chief said it was Lumbao, ho admitted during an interview ith "TV Patrol" on Tuesday and 'syu 101" on Wednesday on Chanel 2, that he gave the order to attack lalacañang.

Lacson's aide, who asked not to be amed, said Lumbao had "exonered" Lacson, reelectionist Senators ıan Ponce Enrile, Gregorio Honasan ıd Miriam Defensor-Santiago and her politicians and military and poce officials, who have been charged with rebellion.

The aide added that Lumbao "claimed responsibility" for having urged the crowd at Edsa Shrine to attack Malacañang.

But Lumbao did not admit in the television interviews that he was responsible for the attack on Malacañang.

He told TV Patrol shortly after he was ordered arrested that the siege was "spontaneous" on the part of Estrada's followers.

He did not exonerate the others, who were also ordered arrested for allegedly inciting to sedition.

Lumbao instead questioned the arrest order and vowed that he would not surrender.

Spontaneous

In a phone interview with "Isyu 101," Lumbao reiterated that the march on Mendiola was a "spontaneous" reaction of Estrada's supporters and was "not a "product of anyone's order."

He did not say that he or the three senators had ordered the attack.

Sources in the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM), a group of soldiers who mounted several coup attempts against the Aquino administration, disclosed that Lumbao joined RAM-Youth sometime in 1995 when Honasan ran for senator.

The RAM-Youth "*barkadahan*" which was reportedly under tutelage of then Col. Jake Malajacan joined the Estrada camp in 1998 and worked for his presidential campaign.

After Estrada's victory, Lumbao was given a position in the Estrada administration as an official of the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

At the height of People Power II, Lumbao resigned from his CDA post and joined the PMAP, which was reportedly funded by one of the former President's sons, JV Ejercito.

TRO on warrantless arrest

Lacson said he would wait for the Supreme Court's ruling on his petition for a temporary restraining order on his warrantless arrest before he could surface and formally answer the charges against him.

He said on dzMM yesterday morning that the rebellion charge against him and the others was an "imagined one" intended to imprison without bail.

"They should be the ones who should be imprisoned," the senatorial candidate said in Filipino.

Asked if he was afraid of being arrested by his nemesis, Col. Reynaldo Berroya, Lacson said his reasons for evading arrest were based on "constitutional issues." ***With reports from Shirley Hope M. Sebastian, Rosary Diane Baytion and Irene Andrea C. Perez***

MEGAWATI

MACAPAGAL

Megawati rejects comparison with GMA

JAKARTA—Indonesian Vice President Megawati Sukarno, widely backed to replace President Abdurrahman Wahid if he resigns or is ousted, rejected on Thursday any comparison with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Macapagal, the former vice president of ousted President Joseph Estrada, replaced him in January after the Philippine Supreme Court declared the presidency vacant.

"The Philippines is the Philippines, Indonesia is Indonesia. Macapagal is Macapagal, and likewise Megawati is Megawati," Megawati was quoted by the chairman of the Supreme Advisory Council (DPA), Achmad Tirtosudiro as saying.

Macapagal's father, Diosdado Macapagal, was a former president of the Philippines, and Megawati is the daughter of Indonesia's founding president Sukarno.

The popular Megawati has received mounting public support as the most likely candidate to replace Wahid, who is facing the prospect of possible impeachment.

The president, who is 18 months into his five-year term, has one month to respond to the second censure motion moved against him in three months by parliament on Monday.

If the parliament deems the response unsatisfactory, parliament could call for a special session of the national assembly to demand that he account for his rule.

A rejection of the account would be tantamount to an impeachment.

Tirtosudiro also said that Megawati only smiled but refrained from comment when asked about the second censure motion against Wahid.

Megawati's Indonesian Democracy Party for Struggle (PDIP) holds the largest block of seats at the parliament and its MPs were at the forefront of efforts to push for the second censure motion. *AFP*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Perez: Junta plotters planned to kill GMA, Erap

(From page A1)

In an interview with ABS-CBN, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced that the government's efforts to arrest the 11 suspected instigators of the violent siege of Malacañang would continue no matter how much they resist these.

She said she was not bothered by speculations that Honasan and Lacson might still plot an armed attack.

"There is that threat, but if they failed to do it when they were free, can they still do it now that they are on the run?" she said.

Enrile, also a PnM candidate and among the principal suspects, was yesterday formally charged with rebellion.

No bail was recommended for Enrile, who was arrested Monday and is being held at Camp Crame.

Opposition politicians asked the Supreme Court yesterday to stop police from arresting their leaders. It was not clear when the high court may rule.

Perez called the arrest orders "an act of self-defense."

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño approved the filing of the charge before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, citing Article 134 under the Revised Penal Code as amended by Republic Act 6968.

Zuño accused Enrile and his still unidentified cohorts of "conspiring and confederating (with) and helping one another" in directing Joseph Estrada's loyalists "to attack, assault, siege, take over Malacañang" with the intention of overthrowing the Macapagal administration and reinstalling the jailed ex-president.

Former Ambassador to the United States Maceda, another principal suspect who was arrested Wednesday, was scheduled for inquest last night.

He was taken to the hospital late last night for high blood pressure.

"At age 66 with a heart ailment and diabetes, there is no rhyme or reason for me to engage in any political adventurism," Maceda had said earlier.

Also yesterday, the Palace issued a military intelligence report showing that Enrile, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, the ex-president's sons Jude Estrada and JV Ejercito, People's Movement Against Poverty head Ronald Lumbao and PnM senatorial candidate Jamby Madrigal personally led the loyalist march to Malacañang.

The President's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao furnished reporters a "J-3 report" from the Armed Forces that provided definite details of what transpired Tuesday morning.

Cebu

At least three law enforcement agencies in Cebu yesterday conducted separate operations to locate the whereabouts of Honasan and Lacson.

But so far, the efforts of the National Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division have yet to produce positive results.

Supt. Jonathan Miano, RIID chief in Central Visayas, said search operations had been conducted in the beach areas of Barangay Pardo in Cebu City and the cities of Talisay, Danao and Lapulapu in Mactan.

He said his team was checking information that Lacson and Honasan might have arrived in Cebu on board a yacht.

The NBI-7 based in Cebu City has formed two groups to look for the two fugitives in northern and southern Cebu.

Supt. Antonio Salvacion, Cebu provincial police chief, said he ordered his men to conduct random checkpoints after receiving reports that Lacson and Honasan could be in Cebu, using different vehicles to move from one area to another.

Salvacion said it was possible for the two to be hiding in the province because Lacson was chief of the Metropolitan District Command in the early 1990s and was named adopted son of Cebu City.

Honasan is also known to have friends in Cebu, he added.

Sources in the intelligence and police community told the INQUIRER that Honasan owned a beach house in Alcoy, a coastal town 90 kilometers south of Cebu City.

They said he also frequented a village in Cebu where a friend of his lives.

In Manila, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said Honasan and Lacson should surrender to authorities now so they could lead normal lives and resume their campaign.

"I hope they come out. It's for their own good to come out and campaign. As you know, flight is always an indication of guilt," Wycoco told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Wycoco also said Honasan and Lacson should be "brave enough" to come out of hiding and explain their side, like Enrile and Maceda who were arrested in their homes and brought to Camp Crame for investigation.

Citing intelligence information, Wycoco said Honasan and Lacson were initially together but were now separately hiding outside Metro Manila.

Asked why the authorities were taking so long in arresting the two and the others still at large, Wycoco said: "The Philippines is so big. There are a lot of nooks and crannies. Besides, many criminal elements are willing to help them hide."

Wycoco disclosed that another suspected instigator, Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, had earlier sent surrender feelers to the NBI but changed his mind.

"He's now going to question the arrest (order on) him before the Supreme Court," Wycoco said.

Continuing threat

Mendoza said that for as long as Lacson and Honasan were on the run, their alleged plan for a "power grab" would be a continuing threat.

He said the "ringleaders" of the power grab should not be allowed to "regroup."

Police have secured airstrips, airports and seaports all over Southern Mindanao following intelligence reports that Honasan and Lacson were planning to use the "southern backdoor" for their escape.

Senior Supt. Eduardo Matillano, police chief in Southern Mindanao, said that based on PNP intelligence sources, Lacson and Honasan were planning to use an airport or seaport in Davao and in Zamboanga City to slip out.

Matillano aired the suspicion that an air strip in a coconut plantation owned by businessman and Estrada ally Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco in Malita, Davao del Sur, would be used to implement the plan.

The airstrip can accommodate a Lear or a Citation jet. It was used by Cojuangco to slip into the country from exile in Australia in the early 1990s.

Matillano said they had also put on a tight watch the Chinese-Filipino traders supporting Lacson in his election campaign.

A "supreme godfather" of the Guardians Brotherhood Inc., Matillano also tapped members of the organization to help the police in the search.

Honasan is one of the founding leaders of the Guardians, which has police and civilian members. It helped Honasan in the 1995 senatorial campaign.

J-3 report

The AFP's J-3 report said that as of 12:30 a.m. on May 1, Enrile, Santiago, Aquino, Ejercito, Madrigal, Lumbao and a William Go were spotted at the Edsa rally.

They delivered speeches egging the crowd to march to Malacañang.

"At around 2 a.m., the lead pack of the (ralliers) began moving toward Malacañang, passing along Ortigas Avenue. Personalities present at the lead pack were Enrile, Butz Aquino, Jude Estrada, Ronald Lumbao and Jamby Madrigal," the report said.

The PNP's crowd control units tri to stop the marchers but failed.

At 2:45 a.m., police fired tear gas the marchers now chanting "*Lusob* (Attack) Malacañang," but this prov futile to stop them.

Ejercito led the group that "overr the PNP barricade at the Greenhis area," using six dump trucks to bre up the barricade.

Jude Estrada and Ejercito accompnied the marchers up the S Centerpoint area in Sta. Mesa, but l just before violence erupted.

Justice Secretary Perez yesterd maintained that Enrile was one of tho who led the march. Perez's disclos was meant to bolster the governmen rebellion charge against Enrile, who lawyers are questioning his continu detention at the CIDG building in Ca Crame.

Perez said the rebellion char against Enrile was based on t "speeches and conduct" exhibited d ing the loyalist rallies at the Edsa Shri.

He also alleged that Enrile "initia did lead the march (to Malacañang). T prosecutors said so."

Perez's statement elicited murmu from the audience who came to watch t oral arguments between government pr ecutors and lawyers of Enrile and Mace. *With reports from Associate Press; Ca C. Yamsuan and TJ Burgonio in M nila; Jhunnex Napallacan and Conn E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Burea Jowel F. Canuday, Julie Alipala-In and Jonathan F. Ma, PDI Mindan Bureau*

'Rebellion' worries diplomats

(From page A1)

outside the Palace on Tuesday might have alarmed some diplomats.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona assured the diplomatic community that it was business as usual in the Philippines after government troops quelled the bloody rampage by supporters of ousted leader Joseph Estrada.

Guingona told about 50 diplomats invited for a meeting at the DFA auditorium that the "state of rebellion" declared by the President empowered her to deal with would-be power grabbers.

Guingona, who is also the foreign secretary, added that the declaration would not threaten democracy. "I can assure your excellencies that this Constitution operates fully to protect all the properties and the lives of citizens and foreigners as well in the wake of this state of rebellion," he said.

"The courts are open, traffic is flowing. Everything is normal, the cocktails continue . . . and except for those who now seek refuge from justice, no one need be alarmed."

Guingona also denied charges that the Macapagal administration was trying to silence the opposition. "We let them talk for six days at Edsa," he said.

But the opposition later "tried to seize power and create a military junta," Guingona said.

During the one-hour briefing, diplomats were encouraged to comment on the violence, but no one did. Some said they would not comment on the country's internal affairs.

But the DFA official, who asked not to be identified, said "the diplomats inquired discreetly about the situation, not wanting to put the Vice President in a bind."

"It's an unstated fact, however, that the country's image in the international community would only be repaired if the President lifts the state of rebellion," the official added.

He also said the diplomats were concerned about the possible effects of the declaration on the local and congressional elections on May 14.

For his part, Siazon said the Philippines remained stable and the government would soon enter dialogue with anti-government groups to start "a healing process."

Other groups

Many groups, including those which joined Edsa People Power II that ousted Estrada in January, have expressed support for the government's crackdown on the suspected leaders of the rebellion.

But they are now calling for an immediate lifting of Ms Macapagal's declaration.

"We believe the threat has been contained. The presidential declaration should now be withdrawn," Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo told a news conference in Quezon City.

"We know from experience that in the past, even without such a declaration, the police and the military have committed grave human rights abuses on hapless civilians," Ocampo said.

Among those who supported the calls for the lifting of the declaration were Freedom From Debt Coalition, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, Kilusang para sa Pambansang Demokrasya and other groups under the Anti-Trapo Movement.

At a separate press conference, a professor of constitutional law at the University of the Philippines said the declaration had no constitutional basis.

Lawyer Marvic Leonen said that what happened on Tuesday did not even qualify as an act of rebellion under the Revised Penal Code.

"What we saw was a very limited expression of mass anger and frustration or what others call Mendiola Riot," he said.

"We want to stress that we are not pro-Estrada but we are surprised that this government is using Marcosian tactics to suppress the opposition," Leonen said.

Warrantless arrests

He also criticized the warrantless arrests being carried out against opposition leaders, saying the President should have asked the police to gather evidence against them and ask the courts to issue warrants of arrest.

"The declaration is limited only to Metro Manila. But what if the suspects fled to other places like Mindanao or the Visayas? Will the warrantless arrest order by the President still have any legal effect?" Leonen asked.

Lawyer JV Bautista, legal counsel for Sanlakas, said he found it "odd that the communist New People's Army has been waging a three-decade-old rebellion in the countryside without the government finding it necessary to place the country under a state of rebellion."

Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza warned that the same edict could also be used to suppress legitimate political dissent by militant groups opposing the Macapagal administration's policies.

Leody De Guzman of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and the party-list group Partido ng Manggagawa said he would lead some 2,000 protesters to Mendiola today to challenge the President's declaration of a state of rebellion and her ban on protest actions in Mendiola.

About 20 members of Sanlakas, BMP and PM yesterday staged a picket at the foot of Don Chino Roces (formerly Mediola) Bridge.

Policemen kept watch over the picket but did nothing to disperse the protesters

CITYSCAPE is dominated by soldiers bristling with guns and ammo; these ones are part of the increased numb of security forces posted at the Nagtahan gate of Malacañang. ERIK ARAZ

Honasan, Roco

In a press statement, Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan said the Ms Macapagal's declaration was aimed at silencing him and other opposition senatorial candidates to ensure a 13-0 victory for the administration slate.

"The administration's propaganda campaign is to focus on the violence at Mendiola and the alleged role of opposition leaders (in the riot). The real issue, however, is why the government ignored the Edsa crowd for days without bothering to open lines of communication with them," Honasan said.

But Education Secretary Raul Roco defended the President's declaration saying Estrada's allies were spreading disinformation to elicit sympathy from the public after instigating violence at Mendiola.

"The problem is that they are confusing the public," Roco said in a statement yesterday. "First, the state of rebellion is not a legal term; it is merely descriptive. Then they mixed rebellion with warrantless arrests when they know that wa rantless arrest is in the Rules Court."

Rebellion is a continuing o fense, Roco said. "Even when the is no violence, any person involv in the planning and the funding a rebellion may be arrested."

Roco noted that some peopl were arguing that there was no r bellion because the people wh trooped to Malacañang were n armed.

"One is considered armed wh carrying a gun, stone, stick ice pic etc.," he said. *With reports fro Blanche Rivera, Jerome Aning an Agnes Donato*

All roads to Malacañang blocked

(From page A1)

allegedly planned the May 1 riots as part of a scheme to seize power and install a pro-Estrada junta.

Tiglao said it was unlikely that people close to Estrada could again gather up a crowd to storm the Palace.

"The demonstrators they were fooling have been enlightened that they were being used as canon fodder," he said.

Reelectionist Juan Ponce Enrile, former Philippine Ambassador to the United States Ernesto Maceda, two police officials and a pro-Estrada organizer have been arrested so far. Five others are being sought, including reelectionist Senator Gregorio Honasan and former national police chief Panfilo Lacson.

Tighter security

Taxis are now banned from taking the roads fronting the Palace.

Container vans have been placed on one of the two lanes at the sentry gates on J. P. Laurel and Arlegui Streets and the one near the Ayala Bridge.

Soldiers were seen yesterday welding barbed wires onto the container vans.

Military and police forces in complete combat gear were also positioned at the checkpoints set up on all the roads to Malacañang.

They are backed up by at least two to three V-150 commando tanks.

The roads leading to Malacañang, where most of the government forces are still stationed, are Magsaysay Boulevard in Sta. Mesa; Quirino Avenue to Nagtahan Bridge in Pandacan; Legarda Street up to Mendiola Bridge; United Nations Avenue to the foot of the Nagtahan Bridge; and C. M. Recto.

Two battalions

Two battalions of military and police combat units and at least 20 commando tanks have been deployed in these areas.

At the Palace grounds, seven fire trucks were added to the seven Simba tanks and armored personnel carriers deployed there since Sunday night.

Tiglao said the security preparations were expected.

"That's the standard procedure here," he said, adding that the Presidential Security Group "just wants to be sure that what happened on May 1 will not happen again."

Tiglao said the security measures had nothing to do with the fact that Honasan and Lacson were still at large. Both are known to have allies in the military and police.

The five fully armed Air Force men who took over the Clark Air Base Control Tower on April 30 could be their allies.

They reportedly acted on the orders of Maj. Gen. Nilo Jatico, an associate of Estrada.

Air Force spokesperson Col. Horacio Lapinid said that Jatico, chief of the Air Logistics and Supply Command, had ordered the airmen to "secure the tower."

An officer in the military intelligence community said the incident "could be part" of the failed power grab attempt against the government.

"We're investigating it," said the source who asked not to be named.

Lapinid, however, refused to say whether the takeover of the tower, which clears all incoming and outgoing flights including those of the Air Force, was part of the power grab attempt.

Erap's kumpare Jatico is a "*kumpare*" of Estrada who stood as one of the sponsors in the wedding of one of the general's children last year, according to military insiders.

He was also the same officer who commissioned Jude Estrada, a son of the ousted President, as a reserve Air Force officer when the former was still chief of the Air Force Reservist Command.

Jatico reportedly earned his second star on the recommendation of former first lady Luisa Ejercito.

Air Transportation Office (ATO) chief Adelberto Yap had officially asked Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor for an explanation of the takeover.

"Initially he (Defensor) told me that he knew nothing about it," Yap said.

ATO controllers are in charge of the tower, which in turn controls all civilian and military air traffic in the base.

Yap said a group of airmen led by 2nd Lt. Rene Sindak took over the control tower from 12:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. on April 30.

It was on the same day that Ms Macapagal Arroyo announced the power grab attempt.

The four other airmen were identified only as Sgt. Duenas and A2Cs (Airman second class) Tipan, Olarte and Sibayan.

On April 29, a day before the incident, the Inquirer reported that Defensor and his sister Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago were linked to a plot to install a junta.

Yap, formerly deputy chief of the Air Force, noted that one of the airmen was a military air controller who could operate the tower's communications and radar systems.

"Perhaps they were anticipating that something will happen," Yap said. "They could control all flights in and out of the base."

One-third of the Air Force

The ATO coordinates with the 5th PAF wing, which provides security and logistics to six units at the Clark airport. The units represent one-third of the total strength of the Air Force, according to Ballesteros.

Clark is host to the wing, the air logistics and support command, air reserve command, the rapid deployment force, 710th Special Operations Wing, the 410th maintenance Wing and the 428th supply Wing.

The Clark airport, an American military airport converted by the Philippine government for commercial use, has been under ATO jurisdiction since 1991.

Because of the incident, ATO officials barred Air Force personnel from entering the control tower of the Clark International Airport.

Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information officer of the PAF's 1st Tactical Operations Wing, the leading base authority at the Air Force City, said the ATO suspended a memorandum of understanding that allowed the Air Force to monitor incoming and outbound military flights at the Clark tower.

Ballesteros told reporters that the ATO suspended the memorandum immediately after Defensor, Air Force commanding general, ordered an investigation of the tower's takeover by five men.

Total surprise

The takeover, according to Ballesteros, came as a "total surprise to everybody at the Air Force City" since the entire Air Force had reaffirmed its solid support for the Macapagal administration.

Sources at the air logistics and support command said Jatico, despite setting up an official operation center at the command's headquarters, had established an operation center in his house at the Air Force City.

Jatico's own men did not kno about this plan, the sources said.

Jatico, according to the source set up the operation center on Su day afternoon after meeting wi Angeles City Mayor Carme Lazatin and Presidential Assist for North Luzon Renato Diaz, of cials identified with the Macapag administration.

It was not known why Laza and Diaz met with Jatico.

In Quezon City, 80 Army reser ists were "detained" at the Quez City hall until early yesterday mor ing by local police authorit alarmed by their presence in the ar on Wednesday.

The group, belonging to t 1302nd Army Reserve Comma (Arescom) led by its battalion co mander Major Reynaldo Enrique was held at the city hall compl from 4 p.m. until about 1:30 da yesterday.

They were allowed to lea when the deputy commander of t Arescom, Col. Moza Macala ide tified the group as "friendly force

In an interview with the I QUIRER, Central Police District Ch Sr. Supt. Rodolfo Tor admitted th CPD operatives were initiall alarmed upon seeing the group the city hall complex shortly befo 4 p.m. on Wednesday. *With report from Andrea Trinidad in Manil Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzo Desk and AFP*

Abenson opens 38th Branch @ Gen. Trias, Cavite

Bringing the Good Life to the Caviteños

April 28, 2001 marks the Grand Opening of Abenson, Home Plus and Walter Mart Supermarket at Gen Trias, Cavite. With this new location, Caviteños are sure to find bigger shopping spaces, fresh store concepts, and more value for their money.

The event was graced by Honorable Governor Bong Revilla, Jr. and actor Efren Reyes,Jr., together with the city councilors, business partners, tenants and guests. The crowd was delighted with fun-filled activities that started with a motorcade, ati-atihan performances, games, mascots, food samplings and dance numbers. Carlos Agassi also joined the fun later in that special day.

Caviteños now have a better destination for appliance shopping, furniture collection and groceries. Abenson carries a complete line of audio-video products, home appliances, small appliances, and electronic gadgets. The furniture section, Home Plus, also offers lifestyle furniture pieces at affordable prices: living room sets, dining showcase, bedroom and office furniture. Walter Mart, on the other hand, offers a wide range of food, non-food, produce, and dry good products.

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CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Shark sweeps PBL elims

Yllana tops touring car in Batangas

ROSARIO, Batangas Eclipse-Havoline-Red Horse-Team Tom's drivers dominated hostilities in the Philippine National Touring Car Championships with actor-sportsman Jomari Yllana winning the third round and defending champion Jody Coseteng topping the fourth round at the Batangas Racing Circuit here Sunday.

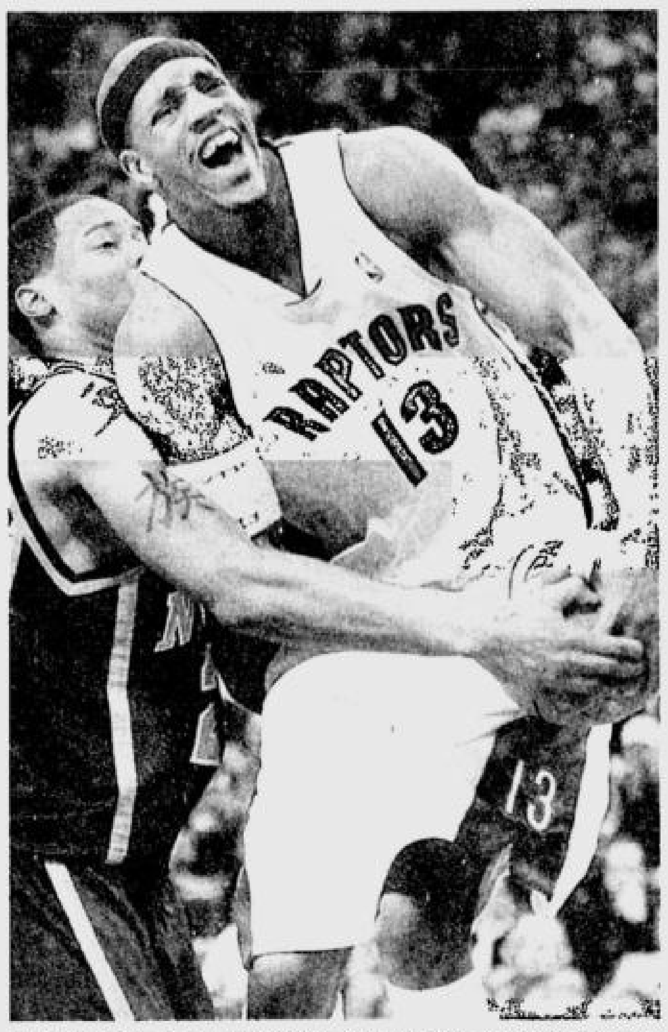
Yllana, one of the most sought-after participants in this series being held alternately in Batangas and Subic, survived a gallant stand by Miguel Ramirez of Petron-SRA and Coseteng to serve notice of his title aspirations.

And Coseteng, who was disqualified in one of two rounds that ushered the racing season in Subic on April 21-22, edged Yllana and Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend to wheel back into contention in this event held simultaneously with the "Philippine Asian Formula 3 Challenge."

"Every race is difficult and I'm very happy to win this one, especially after being disqualified in Subic due to a collision with Ferdie (Ong)," said Coseteng.

Ong, who swept the two rounds held in Subic, failed to compete, along with Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA.

But the Ramirez clan was ably represented with Miguel, the youngest of four sons of race legend Pocholo Ramirez, putting an impressive showing in his Honda Civic.


RAPTOR Jerome Williams and Knick Marcus Camby (left) dispute ball possession during Game 4 of their NBA playoffs in Toronto. The Raptors won, 100-93. AP

GAMES TOMORROW *(Makati Coliseum)*
2 p.m.—Hapee vs GIV Beauty Soap
4 p.m.—PharmaQuick vs Osaka

BY DENNIS U. EROA

SHARK Energy Drink bucked Montaña's desperate rally in the dying minutes to score a 79-68 victory and sweep the PBL Chairman's Cup eliminations last night at the Makati Coliseum.

Baskets by Chester Tolomia, Rolly Basilides and Warren Ybañez bailed Shark out of harm's way, 75-65, 1:25 remaining. Shark padded its winning streak to eight, good enough for the top position in Group A of the quarterfinals.

Montaña, with defensive specialist Francis Zamora grabbing a game-high 11 boards outrebounded Shark, 38-29, but it failed miserably in offense with swingmen Jenkins Mesina and Aries Dimaunahan in injury bay.

Earlier, defending champion Welcoat cemented its hold of third place with a hard-earned 67-60 win over tailender Osaka Iridology. The Paintmasters improved their record to 4-3. Ana Freezer is in second place with a 5-1 card.

Mel Latoreno's jumpers enabled the Jewels to threaten at 71-65, 3:25 left, but Tolomia's one-handed dunk keyed the Power Boosters fiery finish.

SHARK 79—Tolomia 20, Basilides 11, Ybañez 11, Sotto 10, Robinson 8, Malabanan 8, Ortega 0, Rodriguez 0, Caceres 0.

MONTAÑA 68—Gottenbos 16, Latoreno 14, David 13, Torrente 11, Lim 9, Medina 0, Lao 0.

Quarters:17-13,32-33,57-53,79-68

PMI grabs lead

PHILIPPINE Maritime Institute nipped Lyceum, 73-70, yesterday to grab the solo lead in the 1st Sen. Ambrocio Padilla Memorial Cup basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

A three-pronged attack by Nino Marquez, Gleir Bajar and Carlo Altamirano powered PMI to its second straight win in the collegiate division of the tournament being held in honor of the Basketball Association of the Philippines' first president.

Human smuggling rears ugly head anew

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THERE are many areas for housecleaning and reform in the National Sports Associations. And one area that needs serious and immediate action is the problem of human smuggling.

Just recently, Rolando Rivera was removed as president of the Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines for committing various wrongdoings, including alleged human trafficking for a handsome price.

According to Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera, ASA-Phil vice president for Luzon, Rivera was ousted by the board for including a certain Remigio Selga in the national delegation to the World Women's championship in Japan in 1998.Selga was then neither a coach nor an official of the team. Reports said Selga is now working illegally in Japan.

This illegal practice of human smuggling by the NSAs has been going on for ages. The athletes (and non-athletes like Selga) became TNTs (tago ng tago) after paying handsome fees to sports officials who issued them the necessary travel documents such as accreditation papers, identification cards and visas to much-sought countries like the United States and Japan.

Among those involved in a major human trafficking scandal many years back were baseball officials, led by a former sports commissioner, who "smuggled" to the US, if memory serves, more than half of the delegation members. Also linked to human smuggling in the past were the NSAs in table tennis, gymnastics, golf, football, cycling and volleyball.

In 1994 before the start of the Asian games in Hiroshima, more than 55 Filipino travelers were caught by alert Japanese airport officials carrying falsified documents. These illegal entrants disguised themselves as volleyball players complete with parade and playing uniforms. They almost slipped past customs officers until immigration people suspected something fishy and stopped them from entering Japan because of one blatant botch: they were too short to play volleyball!

Indeed, there is a need to stop these embarrassing incidents once and for all. The Philippine Olympic Committee being the "father" of the NSAs, should lead the way in combating this illegal practice of human smuggling. And it will only succeed completely if POC president Celso Dayrit should show more spine in going after these erring association officials. Whether they are friends or foes.

Carter shines as Raptors tie Knicks

TORONTO—Vince Carter threw down a windmill dunk the first time he got the ball, setting the tone for an inspired game by the Toronto Raptors as they defeated the New York Knicks, 100-93.

Tying their best-of-five series at 2-2 on Wednesday and forcing a deciding fifth game Friday night, Carter and the Raptors looked nothing like the over-anxious, poor-executing bunch that withered in Game 3.

Carter scored 32 points, his most in seven career playoff games, and ex-Knick Chris Childs added a career playoff-high 25 on 8-for-11 shooting as Toronto won a home playoff game for the first time in franchise history.

Carter finished 10-for-22 from the field and 10-for-14 from the line with seven rebounds and four assists. Alvin Williams bounced back from a poor Game 3 and added 18 points, while reserve Jerome Williams provided boundless energy and tight defense on Glen Rice to help shut down the Knicks offense in the second half.

76ers beat Pacers

In Indianapolis, Allen Iverson scored 33 points and Aaron McKie came up with a big rebound and two free throws in the closing seconds as the Philadelphia 76ers beat the Indiana Pacers 88-85 to win their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series 3-1.

Philadelphia advanced to the conference semifinals against the winner of the New York-Toronto series, which is tied 2-2.

Iverson led the league in scoring this season and averaged 31.5 for the four playoff games against the Pacers, who eliminated the 76ers each of the past two years.

A 3-point basket by Travis Best gave Indiana an 85-82 lead with just over two minutes to go, but McKie pulled the 76ers within one and Dikembe Mutombo gave Philadelphia the lead with a hook shot with 1:09 remaining.

Kings advance

In Phoenix, Peja Stojakovic scored a career playoff-high 37 points, including 14-of-14 free throws, as Sacramento rallied from a 19-point deficit to beat Phoenix 89-82 and win the best-of-five first-round Western Conference playoff series 3-1.

Kobe raps Scottie

EL SEGUNDO, California—Kobe Bryant says he harbors no ill feelings toward Portland's Scottie Pippen. But he couldn't resist one little dig Wednesday.

"I have no problem at all with Scottie," Bryant said at the Los Angeles Lakers' training facility. "I don't know him as a person. He tried to do everything in his power to help his team win. He failed miserably." *AP*

Age group triathlon 2nd leg slated Sunday

THE NATIONAL Age Group Triathlon series shifts to high gear as the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) organizes the 2nd leg of the OHM National Age-Group Triathlon (NAGT) series in Sta. Cruz Laguna on May 6 in coordination with the Provincial Government of Laguna under Gov. Ningning Lazaro.

The event, sponsored by Overall Hygiene for Men (OHM), Speedo, Viva Mineral Water, POC Sports For All Commission, Asia-Pacific Insulation, Ground Zero, Hotel La Corona, and the PSC, will feature a 750 meter swim- 20 kilometer bike - 5 kilometer run course (25.75 kilometers) at the San Luis Sports Complex. A shorter distance will be allowed for participants of the 14-below age group.

For inquiries, call the TRAP at 0917-9116842, 0919-5807512 and 0917-4217913. Entry forms are available at the TRAP office room 202, Building Alpha, Philsports Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City and Speedo Concept stores in Alabang, Glorietta and SM Megamall. TRAP's email are carrtom@Mydestiny.net and Carlo@CoCoLee.net. Entry fee to the event is P400.

The top 3 male and top 3 female winners of all age groups (14-below, 15-19, 20-24, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-above) will be given priority.

The 1st leg of the NAGT series, held in Ayala Alabang attracted a record field of 146 participants. RP team rookies Francis Mercado, Jowie Fugoso, Sean Lim and Astrud Valdez all had solid postings. Currently leading the points race are Cebu's Alberto Biagan and Cathy Grebert of Manila.

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Bong sees better days ahead for RP athletes

COO

THE PHILIPPINES' most successful Asian Games campaigner, Bong Coo, sees "better, more productive days ahead for (Filipino) athletes" following the recent signing into law by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of R.A. 9064, also called the "Sports Benefits and Incentives Act of 2001."

"This is the best thing that ever happened to (local) sports," noted Coo, whose five gold-medal output in the 1978 and 1986 Asian Games has yet to be surpassed by any Filipino athlete. "(The law's enactment) is very timely since the Southeast Asian Games is only five months away. Our athletes will surely work harder than ever to win more medals, knowing that their efforts will be well-rewarded."

Named one of the "Athletes of the Millennium" by the Philippine Sportswriters Association in 1999, Coo herself stands to receive cash incentives of more than P5 million for her numerous international achievements—37 golds (including two world FIQ titles and one World Cup), 23 silvers and 17 bronzes. All in all, she won 107 national and international titles in close to three decades.

Other big beneficiaries of the incentives' bill are Olympic silver medalists Anthony Villanueva and Onyok Velasco and bronze medalists Roel Velasco and Leopoldo Serrantes.

Taekwondo tourney Sunday

AROUND 500 jins are expected to vie for honors in the 2001 Petron National "New Face of the Year" Taekwondo Championships slated on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the tourney is limited to bronze medalists in past local events and newcomers in six categories—senior men and women, junior men and women and gradeschool boys and girls.

Participants will come from the various PTA branches in Metro Manila and the provinces as well as the military.

"This (event) is part of PTA's commitment to develop the sport (of taekwondo) and, at the same time, supports the government's grassroots program," says vice president Sung Chong Hong.

Set at 9 a.m., the tourney gives competitors the chance to show their techniques, styles, confidence and discipline as they strive to reach new levels.

St. Benilde posts win No. 2

8 a.m.—UE vs UST B (Srs.)
9:30 a.m.—Ateneo A vs Adamson (Jrs.)
11 a.m.—St. Jude vs Letran (Srs.)
12:30 p.m.—San Beda B vs Mapua (Srs.)
2 p.m.—UP vs San Sebastian (Srs.)
3:30 p.m.—Adamson vs Angelicum (Srs.)

NCAA senior champion College of St. Benilde streaked to its second straight victory in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup invitational basketball tournament Wednesday by subduing Adamson University, 71-64, at the PCU gym.

It was close all the way with Coach Dong Vergeire's CSB hoopsters inching ahead, 36-32 at halftime.

Earlier, UNO High beat De La Salle Zobel, 63-55, in a junior match in the series sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines and jointly sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and Smart-Piltel.

Action resumes today with five senior and one senior games on tap at the FEU gym.

Eustaquio paces Class C

JUDSON Eustaquio matched par 72 on Wednesday to take a one-stroke lead in Class C even as the Philippine bets in Class B stayed within sight of the leader in the first round of the Asian Pacific junior golf championships in Sarawak, Malaysia.

Eustaquio held off the charge of three Thai boys to become the best-placed player among the eight RP entries in the multi-nation tourney.

Matthew Manotoc, son of sportsman Tommy, scored an 81 and was running sixth in Class B with Miko Alejandro starting in seventh position with an 82. Allan Matthew Guy is also within striking distance at 84.

Meanwhile, in the Philippine Jungolf Classic leg of the jungolf summer circuit in Canlubang, Tonton Asistio and John Kier Abdon shot one-under 71s to show the way in their respective divisions.

Asistio led by six over IG Gutierrez in boys Class C while Abdon was two up on RG Medestomas in boys Class D.

'Jacpat' derby tonight

BIGTIME cockers from all over the country will meet today at the Pasay City Cockpit with the staging of "Jacpat 4-Cock Derby" beginning at 7 p.m.

The event, hosted by former Araneta Coliseum pit manager Jobo del Rosario, is a fitting follow-up to the Agilawin 4-cocker last week which drew 44 entries and was won by the Pian Marie bet of Peter Lingat.

Among those seeing action today are Gov. Ito Ynares, Manny Kho, Eddie, Jim and Iking Araneta, Blandy Tolentino, Tonette and Dennis Luzuriaga, Alex Escalona, Louie Cua, Peping Suarez, Jun Arcilla and Mike Tolentino of Kaysakat Cockpit, TJ Marquez and Mike Lim of Texas Cockpit, Ricky Adona, William Go and Delfin de Jesus.

For inquiries, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

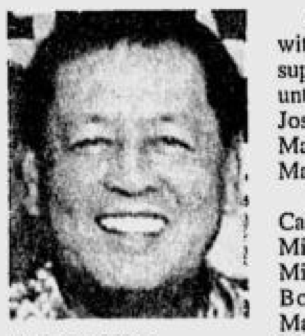
Argem prevails

RFP Argem Coliseum of veteran campaigner Romy Pamatmat scored six points and wound up solo winner in the NCA (National Cockers Association) 7-Cock Derby late Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Another entry, San Pablo Heat of Blandy Tolentino, emerged solo second with 5-1/2 points while four others shared joint third with five points apiece. The five-pointers were Winning Time-Jobo of Lito Orillaza, Capitan III of Alan Tan, San Francisco of Roel Feliciano and Sons and Mulawin Argem Coliseum III of Rudy Albano. Thunderbird-Firefly II of Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta and Binangonan MSK of Manny Kho finished fourth with similar 4-1/2 points.

RP Open Golf moved to June

DUE to the uncertainty of the political situation happening in the country, the Casino Filipino 86th Philippine Open Golf Championship has been moved from May 24-27 to June 28-July 1, officials said yesterday.



FELICIANO

Rod Feliciano, chair of the executive committee together with Ben Abalos, said the decision came after an emergency meeting on Wednesday at Wack Wack, venue of the event.

"We found it wise to postpone it," said Feliciano. "It was a unanimous decision. We did not want to compromise the safety of both our players and fans watching the tournament."

The P9.5-million tournament, to be presented by San Miguel Beer, has attracted some of Asia's top parbusters, who, officials said, had started asking about political conditions in the country after the May 1 siege on Malacañang hit the international headlines.

"The safety of our players and spectators is our paramount concern," said Benny Gopez, chair of the organizing committee together with Wack Wack's SP Malbarosa. "Even if the political unrest has already been quelled, you cannot discount from the minds of the players the thought of a continuing rebellion in the country. Golf is a mind game, you know. You need a lot of concentration to be able to control your game."

The tournament has been on target, with sponsors raring to throw in their support for Asia's first golf tournament until a mob loyal to deposed President Joseph Estrada stormed the gates of Malacañang in a failed power grab on May 1.

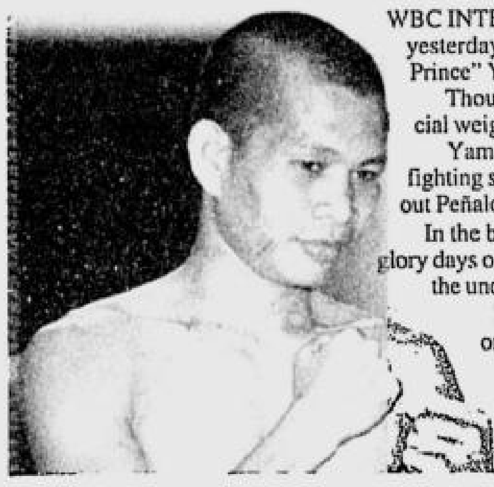
The confirmed sponsors, aside from Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer, are Mitsubishi Motor Philippines, General Milling Corp., Hanjin Shipping, Bingo Bonanza, Citra Tollways, Tretorn, Marsman Drysdale, Pacific Paint & Oil Manufacturing Inc., Mizuno, Rudy Project and Cinnabon.

The others being tapped and almost ready to come in are Basic Holdings, Unilever, Prudential Life Insurance, Lucio Tan Group of Companies, Globe Telecoms, Department of Tourism and Nextel.

"We assure our friends from the corporate world that we are doing everything to ensure the success of the tournament," said Feliciano. "To the spectators raring to watch their idols play in the Philippine Open, rest assured that we are not only doubling but instead tripling our efforts in making sure that we will all have an Open worth remembering once more."

As usual, the Pro-Am will be held a day before the start of the Open, with Mitsubishi staking its usual top-of-the-line model as a hole-in-one prize.

Gerry confident of making weight



PEÑALOSA

WBC INTERNATIONAL superflyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa yesterday said he was prepared to wage war against Keiji "The Prince" Yamaguchi tomorrow night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Though slightly over the 115-pound limit on the eve of the official weigh-in, Peñalosa said he would make the weight easily.

Yamaguchi, nicknamed "The Prince" because he likes to ape the fighting style of his idol Prince Naseem Hamed, said he would knock out Peñalosa in the fight billed as "Winning Time: Lakas ng Pinoy."

In the blockbuster fight card, seen as a first step to bring back the glory days of boxing, two other exciting Filipinos battle rugged Thais in the undercard.

Former WBA minimum weight champion Joma Gamboa, one fight away from another title shot, meets No. 3 Thai Pigmy Muangchaiya.

Unbeaten knockout sensation Randy Suico, who has a record of 13-0 with 11 KOs, clashes with former Thai featherweight champion Khumphoon Eausamphan

The preliminary bouts begin at 6 p.m. with Suico expected to enter the ring at 7 p.m.

Abadia, Ruel, Mora Hilado Cup winners

TOP seed Adelo Abadia outplayed Gary Caabay, 6-3, 6-3, and No. 2 Rolando Ruel beat Benjie Arquiza, 6-0, 6-2, yesterday in the men's singles of the P100,000 Luis Hilado Memorial Cup at the Nota tennis courts in Bacolod City.

Joining Abadia and Ruel in the next round were third seed Michael Mora III, who scored a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Japhet Bartolome, and fourth seed Pio Tolentino, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over Nene Sagansay.

No. 5 Pop Sabandon, No. 6 Jessie Lapore, No. 7 Jun Cabrera and No. 8 Nino Salvador also won their first-round matches in the Philta-sanctioned tournament organized by the Negros Tennis Foundation and Mariposa Foundation Inc.

Sabandon downed Jake Tiu, 6-1, 6-1; Lapore outclassed Edgar Grenio, 6-1, 6-3; Cabrera trounced Eduardo Rodriguez, Jr., 6-0, 6-1 and Salvador outsteadied Antonio Sagansay, 6-4, 6-4.

Other winners in this event offering P20,000 in cash and 100 Philta points to the singles champion were Juvan Divinagracia, Johan Guba, Ronald Paz, Jomarie Daclan, Terrence Estrope, Gilbert Estrada, Ruel Rubillar and Pierre Fernandez.

'Kawal' golfest May 19

THE GMA Para sa Kawal Cup will be held on May 19 at the Riviera. Tee off time is 7:30 a.m.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the Guest of Honor, according to Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Chair Edgardo Espiritu.

The tournament is being organized by Department of National Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Espiritu for the benefit of ASK.

ASK is a non-stock, non-profit and non-political organization that was established in 1986.

It was founded by businessmen and professionals from the private sector as an expression of their appreciation and gratitude to the common soldier for their sacrifices while defending the country in Edsa 1. Call Eduardo Santiago at 913-5428 for further details.

SPORTSWATCH

Sports events on cable TV

FILIPINO sports enthusiasts get to enjoy watching different sports events on primetime cable TV with the recent launching of dedicated Philippine feed of ESPN STAR Sports (ESS). ESPN already has live feeds in Taiwan and India which feature time slots from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. daily focusing on basketball (NBA and NCAA), billiards, bowling, golf, boxing, football, baseball and extreme sports. Rik Dovey, managing director of ESPN Star Sports, said: "It's a win-win situation for viewers, platform operators and advertisers. It also shows the importance we give to the Philippines as a key Asian sports TV market." According to AC Nielsen survey, the most frequently watched sports channel in the country is ESPN, followed by Viva-Vintage Sports and Star Sports.

Weena Lim Scoop guest

PSC Commissioner Weena Lim will be the inducting officer as the new set of officers of the Sports Communicators Organization of the Philippines (SCOOP) take their oath of office today at the Kamayan West Avenue. Bulletin's Beth Celis, serving her sixth term as Scoop president, leads the officers to be inducted along with Mon Lorenzo of Sports Weekly as executive vice president; Manila Bulletin assistant editor Willie Caballes as vice president for print; Cris Daluz as vice president for broadcast; Malaya's Bong Castro as secretary; Kabayan's Celeste Terrenal as treasurer and Remate Tonight sports editor Dani Simon as auditor. Completing the board of directors are Manila Bulletin's Jean Malanum, Sports Radio's Kenneth Garcia and Caloy Inductivo, People's Journal's Gerry Ramos, Abante's Malou Aquino, Malaya's Rey Lachica, Philippine News Agency's Jelly Musico, Tony Lu and Bandera's Waylon Galvez.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Don't Worry 2. Doctor's Advice/King Ram 3. Wag Ingay 4. Knows Love
Race 2—1. Brazen Truth 2. Miggy 3. Might and Power
Race 3—1. Super Dancer 2. Wendy's Pride 3. Winining Rose 4. Michael's Way 5. Dr. Jones
Race 4—1. Palaban 2. Golden Figure 3. Iron Lady 4. Ann's Magic 5. D Barrister
Race 5—1. Brusko 2. Aya's Dream 3. Gentleman's Copy 4. Dynamite Miss
Race 6—1. Sky Hawk 2. Midnight Rose 3. Serena 4. En Carta 5. Mr. Lucas
Race 7—1. Daseldurf 2. Bandido 3. Freshman 4. Burning Light 5. Perfect Nine
Race 8—1. Sham Sham 2. Gold Honors 3. King of Arabia/Mighty Warrior 4. Ocean Dignity
Race 9—1. Dressed to Impress 2. With Feeling 3. Princely Native 4. Miguel's Pet 5. Letshaveaparty

Senior netfest May 26

THE PHILIPPINE Seniors Tennis Association will hold the Philippine Championship, a three-weekend, 11-event tournament, at the Philippine Columbian Association courts starting May 26.

The event, sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta), features events in men's executive singles and doubles.

Participants are aged from 35 to 70 and above.

Call 525-6434, 921-5807 and 563-8501 for more details.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs - First Round, Dallas vs Utah, Game #5 at 9 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 8:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: Inside the PGA Tour at 11:30 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on Star Sports
PGA Compaq Classic of New Orleans, First Round at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports
HOCKEY: NHL Conference Semifinals Game #4 at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN
NHL Power Week! at 1:30 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: ATP Atlanta Tennis Challenge Finals at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 10:30 p.m. on ESPN
WRESTLING: WCW Nitro at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports
SOCCER: Western Union World Football at 7 a.m. (r) on ESPN
Asian Football Show at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
Spanish League Highlights at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN
TABLE TENNIS: World Table Tennis Championships - Women's Singles Quarterfinals at 2 p.m. (r- 11 p.m.), Mixed Doubles Semifinals at 4 p.m., Mixed Doubles Final at 5:30 p.m. on ESPN
MOTOR SPORTS: Motorsport Asia at 8 p.m. on ESPN
SNOOKER: Premier Snooker League 2001 at 9 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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Bata leads RP campaign in NY

VERONA, NEW YORK—The Turning Stone's Classic II, a $50,000 added 9-ball tournament hosted by The Turning Stones Casino Resort here, gets under way today with newly-crowned Masters Champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, Django Bustamante and Rodolfo Luat of the Philippines among the star-studded 128-player field. The three are proteges of Manila sportsmen Jose G. Puyat and Aristeo G. Puyat.

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

■ Raptors defeat Knicks for 2-2 sccre A22

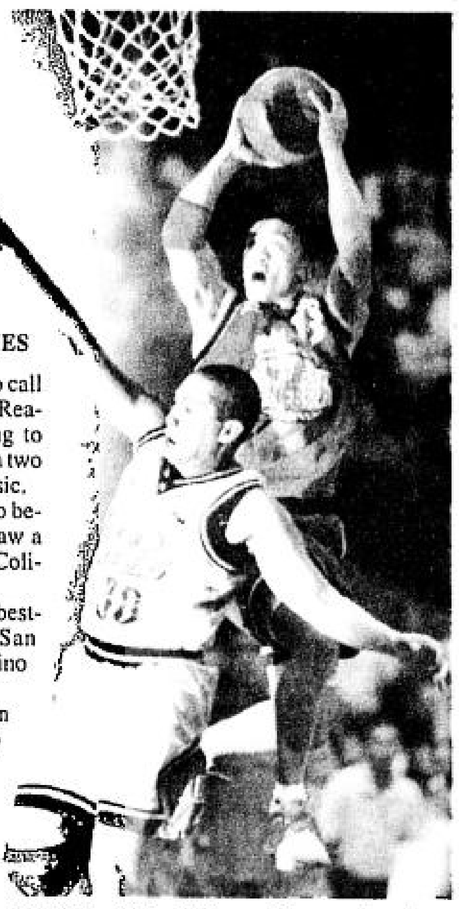
Ginebra, Shell clash today for finals berth

Semis at a Glance:
Game 1: Ginebra 90, Shell 78
Game 2: Ginebra 74, Shell 72
Game 3: Shell 113, Ginebra 87
Game 4: Shell 78, Ginebra 67

Game 1: Pop Cola 73, SMB 64
Game 2: SMB 81, Pop 66
Game 3: SMB 82, Pop 75
Game 4: SMB 91, Pop 87
(SMB wins series, 3-1)

GAME TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
7:15 p.m.—Ginebra vs Shell

By Marc Anthony Reyes



SHELL Velocity's Gerry Esplana (foreground) looks helpless as Ginebra's Jayjay Helterbrand fires one in this bit of action during Wednesday's Game 4. Shell won, 78-67. ROMY HOMILLADA

BARANGAY Ginebra will have to call on its never-say-die spirit today. Reason: Shell Velocity is threatening to score an improbable comeback from two games down in their semifinal classic.

The winner-take-all game, set to begin at 7:15 p.m., is expected to draw a full-house crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

The winner will advance to the best-of-seven title playoffs against San Miguel Beer for the PBA All-Filipino crown beginning on Sunday.

The Beermen advanced on Wednesday by defeating the Pop Cola Panthers, 91-87, for a 3-1 victory.

"We need to think that Game 5 will make us a worthy contender for the Finals," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic. "Losing a 2-0 edge, it's going to be a test of character for us."

Caidic said they are feeling the pressure applied by the Turbochargers, who will make history should they complete their 0-2 recovery and proceed to clinch a 3-2 victory in their semifinals series.

"I don't blame my players because we played well and carried out our game plan well," said Caidic, whose last taste of a championship title came in 1998 when he was still playing for San Miguel Beer. "We didn't play bad in Game 4."

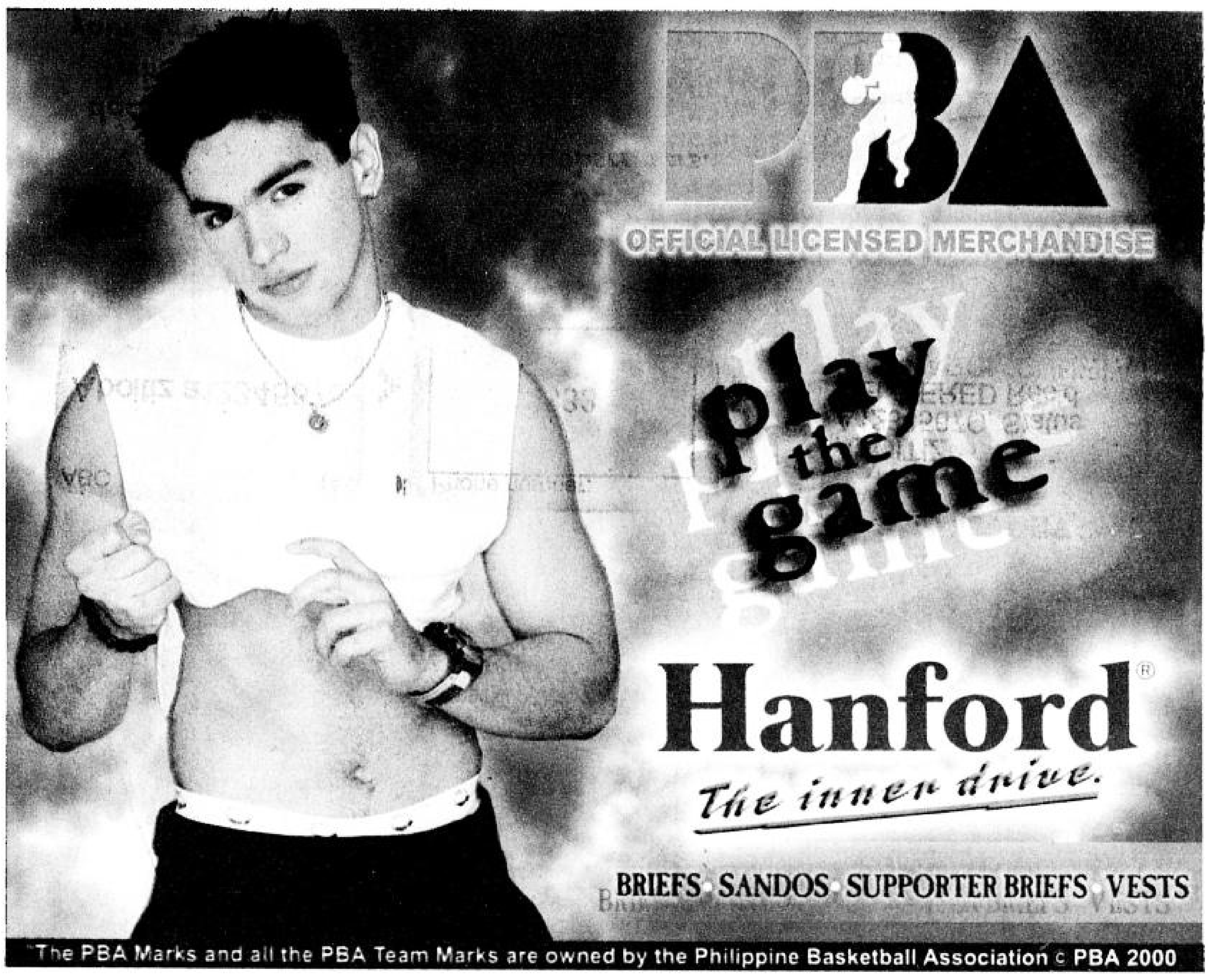
Shell showed consistency in shooting in Games 3 and 4, scored well on second-chance points and converted baskets off turnovers almost at will.

"We don't want to think we're making history," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo. "We just want to win and make a series out of it. And I assure everybody that it's going to be a war out there on Friday. It's not going to be a battle of skills, but a battle of wills."

Shell drew firepower both from its veterans and rookies in Games 3 and 4 to forge the 2-all deadlock.

In contrast, the Gins' veterans—Jun Limpot, Vergel Meneses and Bal David—appeared lost after winning the first two games. Rookie Mark Caguioa stood out in both games.

Between them, the hungrier team is Ginebra, whose last championship stint came in the 1997 Commisioner's Cup.



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'Tsamba'

Spectator

Al S. Mendoza

GET well, Kume, and yes, resume speed, Buloy: Here's wishing that PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino gets well soon. Kick that habit of smoking, Kume, and that shortness of breath will immediately go. Better drink than smoke...Look at my Buloy Al Fernandez, that almost irreplaceable mayor of Dagupan City. With his ciggie flicked away for good, he's back on the road after a brief stay at St. Luke's. Last I heard, Buloy's son, Alvin (who's like my own son already), is way ahead in the race for vice mayor of Dagupan City. These days, when the night is come, Buloy sips red wine. Just a glass will do it. For now and forever. Take it from Buloy, Kume? Holy smoke, discard that puff, will ya? The PBA still needs you that badly.

■

COME to think of it. Ginebra will be history once it bows to Shell in Game 4. I said that one column ago.

Now will that really happen tonight? Will Ginebra lose Game 5 and thus become a mere asterisk once more in the PBA record books? An asterisk indicating that Ginebra had fallen short anew in its bid for a finals slot?

Yes, if we'll go by the standards set forth by Shell in Games 3 and 4. Said standards had emphasized on Shell's science, the team's chief weapon that was not seen in Games 1 and 2. Or was it obliterated by Ginebra's unorthodox, if not tupsy-turvy, style of play?

Among all teams in the league, only Ginebra has this uncanny ability to extract victories in the most bizarre manners. Remember that Magtulis Hail Mary of a shot that eliminated Purefoods just a while back?

What I am saying is, Ginebra loves to win the unscientific way. It hates to do it the right way. For the team to really win it, it must resort to near-fantasy rather near-perfect formula. The crowd loves it when Ginebra is doing almost the impossible: Pulling it out from the fire, winning by the thinnest of margins.

Some call it luck, others destiny. But to the jaded observers: *tsamba*. By whatever name it is called, it always smelled sweet. Like a rose. Called by any name, a rose will always smell sweet. Ginebra a rose?

Thus, I guess I'll have to reconsider my stand. Ginebra isn't history yet, won't be history before tonight's game. I have also said time and again that basketball, like any other sport, is almost always a game defined in the present. I'm resurrecting that belief again.

Games 3 and 4 are history. Tonight's Game 5 is the present.

After re-evaluating things, I think it's not really over for Ginebra. Recall Yogi Berra's wisdom: It ain't over till it's over. I am also reminded by what one sage has said: Do not mourn about the past, do not worry about the future, think of the present.

Think of the present. That should be Ginebra's battlecry tonight.

Then leave everything to the gods.

Gods of *tsamba*, that is.

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Diver drowns

AIR FORCE Sgt. Rommel Aguilar, a former member of the Philippine Scuba Divers Association living in Malacañang Park, was drinking with a brother-in-law when he decided to swim in the Pasig River Monday night. The next time he was seen was Tuesday morning when his body was fished out of the river.

Jerome Aning, Carina Roncesvalles

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Sing-along slaying

TRICYCLE driver Apolinario de la Cruz, 30, of San Andres Bukid, Manila, was watching a customer sing at a bar on Onyx Street when Wenceslao San Antonio, stabbed him four times Monday night, reportedly over an old grudge. San Antonio escaped, while De la Cruz died three hours later. *Jerome Aning, Myla Torres*

2 mayors suspected of bribing 'rebels'

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND JEROME ANING

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is closely watching two Metro Manila mayors suspected to be among the alleged instigators of the bloody Labor Day attack on Malacañang.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said the "financier of the failed rebellion" gave money to two Metro Manila mayors who in turn bribed those loyal to deposed President Estrada to storm Malacañang.

Wycoco said the financier backed the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa and the attack on Malacañang with money, food, vehicles and medicines.

He withheld the identities of the financier and the two mayors. He said the supposed financier is an incumbent government official who is not seeking reelection and is not a businessman.

An NBI insider said the two mayors are from "two cities fronting Manila Bay," but Wycoco refused

2 MAYOR/ A26

1 youth's head found in Marikina River

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A SCAVENGER yesterday found by the Marikina River the head of one of the three young men who were found decapitated in Quezon City three weeks ago.

Police said the head found by the 13-year-old scavenger was that of Rolando Popanes, 18. The head was inside a plastic bag found near the Tumana Bridge at the boundary of Quezon City and Marikina, said Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit homicide section chief.

Jaraza said suspect Romeo Aguado, alias Boy Hapon, and witness Gerry Franco positively identified the head as that of Popanes.

Police said Popanes, Kenny W. Azana, and a third boy known only as Badjao were killed on the night of April 16. Their headless bodies were later found on the street near the Cresta Verde Subdivision in Novaliches, Quezon City.

Reward, promotion for wounded cops

BY JEROME ANING

TWELVE other members of the Western Police District have been recommended for promotion after they were wounded during the dispersal of Estrada loyalists who were marching on Malacañang on Tuesday.

The WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pacinos Jr., wrote the National Capital Regional Police Office chief, Deputy Director Romeo Peña, to promote to the next rank the 12 policemen for their courage and devotion to duty.

This follows the spot promotion of PO1 Grant Fausto Savedia, a member of the WPD civil disturbance management group, who did not fire his gun even when a mob of ralliers beat him up until he fell unconscious.

The 12 policemen who were recommended for promotion were Rodolfo Ong, Jhovani Chua, Alvin Ramos, Gerry Salazar and William Allandry Reyes, all police officers 1 from the CDMG.

Others were Chief Insp. Danilo Estapon, head of the WPD's operations unit; SPO1 Noel Urquico of Station 7; and Special Action Forces members Albert Barit, Jerson Borja, Glen Casongsong, Benjie Parce and Marcelino Mabulac, all police officers 1.

The WPD yesterday raised to four the number of civilians killed in the Palace attack.

SPO1 Athos de Quiros of the WPD homicide section identified the fourth victim as Rogelio Alicante, 35, single, of Barangay San Miguel in San Antonio, Zambales.

Alicante, who had been identified by his father Paterno, was among the two unidentified civilian fatalities who were shot in the face during the riot on J.P. Laurel Street near Malacañang's Gate 7.

PO3 Rolando Abello was also killed during a confrontation with four armed men believed to be Estrada loyalists during an encounter near Quiapo Church also on Tuesday night. *With Carina Roncesvalles*

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Wives of detained seamen denounce RP envoy to UAE

By Christian V. Esguerra

AMBASSADOR Amable Aguiluz III came under fire from the wives and relatives of 30 Filipino seamen detained in the United Arab Emirates when the official allegedly led the family members to believe that the seamen would be released last Monday.

Fatima Agustin, whose husband Nestor is among those detained for allegedly defrauding several commercial banks in Abu Dhabi, said Aguiluz, the country's representative to the UAE, should have been more sensitive when he claimed the seamen would be released.

"He led us to believe they (the seamen) would be set free," Agustin said in Filipino. "It turned out he was not telling the truth."

She added Aguiluz should not have announced the release of the seamen if he was not sure of his information.

Last week, the Philippine Embassy to UAE informed relatives of the seamen that the workers would be released Monday, Agustin said.

On April 20, the embassy was informed that the chief prosecutor in Abu Dhabi issued an order for the temporary release of the seamen, according to embassy documents furnished to Agustin.

The supposed release form written in Arabic was also attached to the embassy documents.

Two days later, the UAE prosecutor reportedly advised the embassy that the workers would be moved from the Al Wathba Central Prison to the Asma Capital Prison where they would be held temporarily prior to release.

Because of this development, the Department of Foreign Affairs issued press statements on the release, which were published in several newspapers.

Dead baby in a sewer

POLICE on Wednesday fished out of a Malabon sewer the decomposing body of a baby girl whose head had almost been eaten away by rats.

Members of the Malabon Police Station Investigation and Intelligence Bureau have not identified the baby, believed to be one to two months old, said PO2 Redentor Mantala.

Lina Balayan found the body floating in a sewer in front of her house on Daang Bakal in Barangay Potrero, police said.

Police were investigating if the baby was thrown intentionally in the sewer.

The baby's body remained unclaimed at the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory as of yesterday. *Christian V. Esguerra, Paul Ernest Lazaro*

Plunder suspect sentenced today

By Jerome Aning

DOMINGA S. Manalili, the first Filipino to be detained for plunder charges, will be sentenced today by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Manalili, a cashier of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, is facing the capital punishment for the plunder charges filed against her in 1997 for allegedly siphoning off P260.3 million in tax payments from 1996 to 1997.

The sentencing is set for 8:30 a.m. today in the sala of QCRTC Branch 96 Judge Diosdado Peralta.

Since her arrest on Jan. 15, 1998, Manalili has been detained at the Quezon City jail, unlike former President Joseph Estrada and his son Jinggoy, who were recently arrested on plunder charges and who are detained in an air-conditioned bungalow in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

In her arraignment in December 1999, Manalili, who was charged with six other people, pleaded not guilty to the plunder charges filed against her.

Court records show that on Nov. 5, 1996, Manalili and BIR assistant regional director Teofisto Sapitula allegedly opened an unauthorized account at the Land Bank of the Philippines branch in West Triangle, Quezon City with an initial deposit of P387,800.

Between November 1996 and February 1997, a total of P197.5 million was deposited in the account. The accused then made withdrawals from the account through checks that were made payable to them or to the entities they purportedly represent. *With Carina Rocesvalles, Jeusa Raflores and Myla Torres*

Pasay jail guard slain by three men

THREE unidentified men stabbed dead Jail Officer 1 Victor Agustin early yesterday morning in Pasay City.

Police said Agustin, 31, of the Pasay City Jail, died at the Pasay City Medical Center while undergoing treatment for several stab wounds. His killers, believed to be former Pasay jail detainees, escaped, police said.

Investigation showed that the attack happened shortly after midnight while Agustin was walking on a dark portion of F.B. Harrison Street.

Witnesses told police that after Agustin fell, the three men just walked away, as if nothing had happened, while bystanders brought the jail guard to the hospital. *Nelson F. Flores, Roselle Aguilar*

2 mayors suspected . . .

(From page A25)

to confirm this.

Among the Metro Manila mayors who went to the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa were Lito Atienza of Manila, Amado Vicencio of Malabon and Peewee Trinidad of Pasay.

Wycoco said the NBI has already gathered evidence to indict the supposed financier, but NBI agents were still gathering information to establish the culpability of the two mayors.

He said the NBI has video clips, radio recordings of the dzEC broadcast aired live over Net25, improvised firearms, knives, stones and affidavits of witnesses both at the Edsa Shrine and in Malacañang.

Wycoco also confirmed that most of those who were arrested during the attack on Malaca□ang were high on drugs.

"The DOJ did not specify the mayors," said Atienza's spokesperson Jackie Reyes, "so if we comment, it might be interpreted that we feel we are the ones being alluded to."

Reyes added that Atienza is always ready to face any investigation.

"If he is innocent, there is nothing he should be afraid of," Amado Bagatsing, Atienza's rival for the Manila mayoralty in the May 14 elections, said in a press statement.

In San Juan, the new police chief, Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia, said he and his men were closely monitoring the hometown of the deposed president following reports that Estrada loyalists were seen gathering in the town.

De Gracia said about 50 people were spotted at a mini-park near the Pinaglabanan Shrine on Tuesday morning. "We found out later that they were among those who got left behind when the people at the Edsa Shrine marched on Malaca□ang on Tuesday," he said.

Police learned that most of the people at the park were from the Visayas and Mindanao. "Apparently, they did not have money to return home," De Gracia said. "Fortunately, a Good Samaritan gave them transportation money." *With Jerome Aning and Agnes E. Donato*

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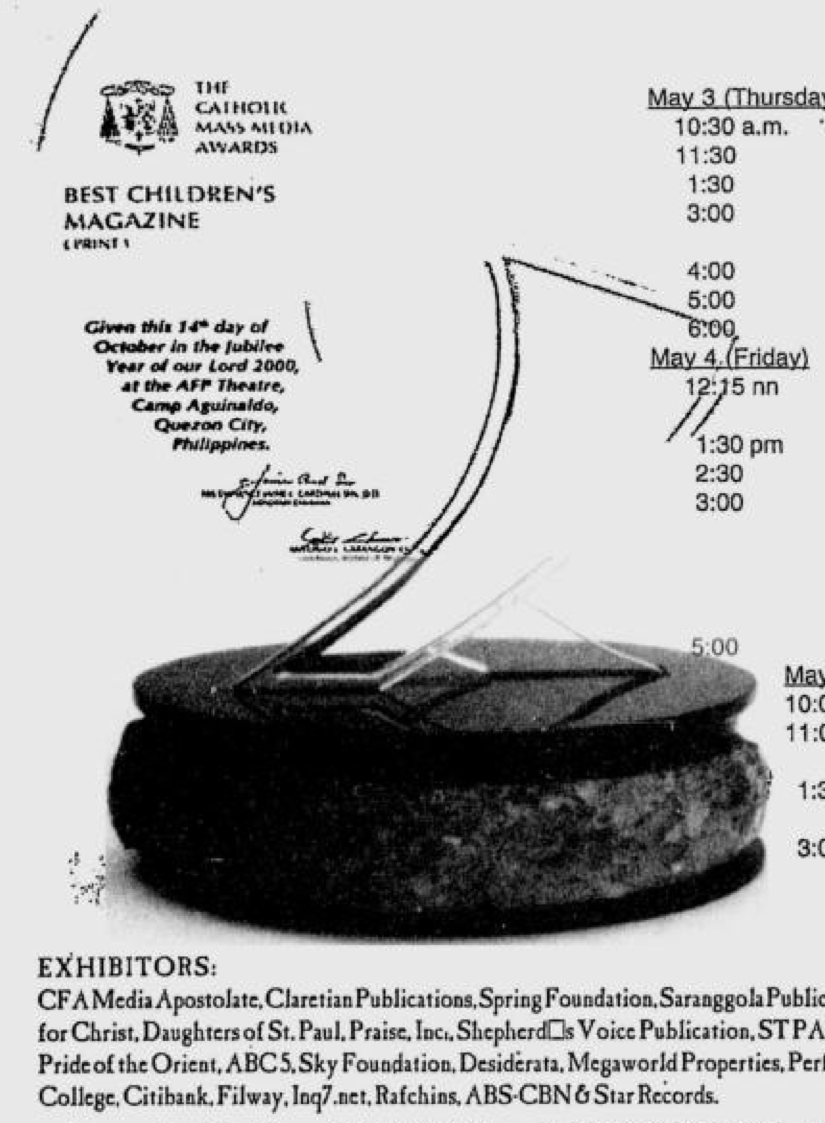
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3:00 New Trends in Print Media
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4:00 Film Showing (Entries to the 1st Student CMMA)
5:00 Viva Records (Servant of All, etc.)
6:00 Film Showing (Independent Film)
May 4 (Friday)
12:15 nn Holy Mass in Radyo Veritas
Rev. Fr. Joselito I. Jopson
1:30 pm Film Showing (Entries & Independent Film)
2:30 Viva Records
3:00 Usapang Media (Talk Show)
Moderator: Mr. Mandy Ochoa
Panelists: Ms. Laurice Guillen, Mr. Ansel Beluso, Mr. Mari Kaimo & Fr. Manuel Bongayan, SVD
5:00 Film Showing (Entries & Inedpendent Film)
May 5 (Saturday)
10:00 am Film Showing (Entries)
11:00 am Short Lecture & Film Showing
Mr. Raymond Red
1:30 pm Holy Mass &Launching of CMMA 2001
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No maximum tolerance, please

Bare Eye

Recah Trinidad

(GERRY'S SECRET: They're right. Gerry Peñalosa cannot afford to lose tomorrow night. His challenger, Keiji Yamaguchi, being a former world crown holder, is definitely no patsy. Peñalosa, seeking another crack at the world 115-pound crown, would not bare it. But, in plotting against his Japanese foe, he revealed a newfound ploy. He said he will be launching his attack on a suspect portion of Yamaguchi's anatomy "which cannot see." Gerry refused to elaborate. The bout at the Araneta Coliseum will be covered on television. See for yourself....PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, recovering in a hospital, would have been there at ringside. This one's for you, too 'Bok.' Get well, quick. We need you here, Sir.)

* * *

TOO bad for Ginebra that basketball games cannot always be won with the shouts and sizzle of hysterical fans.

Team members should also work very hard and make things happen.

After the PBA's most popular squad had moved a win within clinching a championship slot, it folded up, lost two in a row against Shell, and now stands one likely defeat away from disaster.

They've been asking what caused Ginebra's horrible stand in its last two games.

Nothing much really. The team just bared that it lacked character. It suddenly turned soft and lazy.

Or, to go by details, Ginebra fell two in a row because their big defenders decided to practice maximum tolerance on the hardcourt.

No kidding. The way Jun Limpot, designated main defensive pillar, had allowed the Shell gunners to score almost at will, mainly from the top of the key, you could suspect they had been infected by the commendable patience of government troops during last Monday's failed power grab around Malacañang.

* * *

This is no exaggeration. Limpot & Co. often stood like harmless statues as Shell gunners revolted and launched their all-out offensive in the final quarter.

As a result, Ginebra's offensive itself fell in disarray.

A particularly pitiful sight was the sensational team spark plug, Mark Caguioa, who desperately battered the irons in the closing quarter, and still failed to buy a single basket. He turned both blind and frantic.

That, of course, can be blamed on the coaches who had thought, wrongly of course, that the rookie standout could again pull a rabbit from his blonde locks.

Of course, what really tickled was this conjecture by Ginebra fanatics that the team, after having won two in a row, opted to play soft and shy in Game 3 to add spice and suspense to its best-of-5 semis series against Shell.

The Ginebra-Shell had appeared headed for a boring wind-up following the Gin Kings' two successive triumphs.

Predictably, gullible fans bought that cheap sales stunt. After all, after having gone two games up, Ginebra, with its newfound worth, could have had enough moving room even if lost the next game.

Unfortunately for Ginebra, the team inexplicably got stuck on Wednesday with the sissy stand it had supposedly taken on purpose during last Sunday awful blowout loss to Shell.

* * *

It would be an understatement to say that Shell, given up for loss, now has the momentum.

The odds will be overwhelming in favor of Shell today.

The fanatical fans will again be back in full force.

Shell coach Perry Ronquillo has in fact acknowledged they would have to contend with the cheering, jeering backers of their opponents who still command the biggest fan following in the pro league.

Well, it's hard to say what coach Allan Caidic would do to turn the tide.

Does Caidic's fiery consultant Ron Jacobs have the secret chants, the mantra to instantly lend character to the often lost, scattered team?

Or will Jun Limpot and his gang finally agree and accept that maximum tolerance is totally unacceptable in do-or-die affairs.

No. It's not the presidency of the republic itself that's at stake here.

But if Ginebra would finally fulfill the ardent dream of its hordes of sweltering supporters, its mainstays must stop playing lazy and merciful against incensed Shell attackers.

There should be no tolerance, even on a minimum level.

Limpot and the other team veterans should stop playing like statues.

The battle cry is crush or be crushed. It's yours or mine.

Ginebra should not allow itself to be ousted by a coup of its own making.

Sharon: My Kiko is not an opportunist

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MEGASTAR **Sharon Cuneta** speaks in defense of her husband, lawyer and senatorial candidate **Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan.**

In this paper's April 30 news section a report entitled "Sharon, Helen keep ties above politics" quoted **Helen Gamboa** as saying Kiko approached her husband, Sen. **Tito Sotto,** for help in getting into the Lakas party.

Sharon explained to us what actually happened before Kiko joined the People Power Coalition (PPC) senatorial slate. She recalled the circumstances that led to Kiko's decision to join the PPC.

"Months before the impeachment hearings started, Kiko went to Uncle Tito to ask for his advice, as Kiko hadn't decided yet if he wanted to run at all or if he was going to run for the Senate or the House of Representatives," Sharon said.

"Uncle Tito, with only good intentions, advised Kiko to run for vice mayor of Daboy (Rudy Fernandez) in Quezon City. Since it was either the Senate or the House for Kiko if ever he was going to run, so he never brought it up again with Uncle Tito after that."

Sharon said that as early as May last year, Kiko met with President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.**

"He told her he would support her if she would lead the united opposition," Sharon said. "The economy was already bad then. The BW scandal had also come out. Kiko was disillusioned and the big issue for him was not Erap the personality but the style of leadership.

"Since he hadn't talked with Uncle Tito again, Uncle Tito didn't know these. But out of the kindness of his heart, Uncle Tito took it upon himself to talk with the former president and consider including Kiko in his slate. Then he told Kiko about it when it was okayed.

"Kiko met with Uncle Tito after that to say he had decided to join the opposition out of *delicadeza* and respect. He explained why and Uncle Tito gave him his blessing."

While Sharon admitted that she wanted to see her Uncle Tito and her husband in one party, she is now resigned to the fact that it will never happen.

"My dream was for them to work together because we are family, but that wasn't meant to be," she said. "Mama Helen probably didn't know the whole story because we don't really talk about politics. She wasn't lying. Either she just probably didn't know the details or forgot some.

"I believe our love for one another is strong and all this shall pass. But my family is forever. Mama Helen's kids and I grew up like sisters and one brother, not cousins. I love them dearly and respect their stand as they also respect us.

"My Kiko is not an opportunist. He has always been a decent, honest, God-fearing man and only wants to do good."

Kiko is with the Liberal Party. Sharon's dad, the late Pasay City Mayor **Pablo Cuneta**, was also with LP when he was still in politics.

"We asked my dad when he was already sick but still lucid, what position he wanted for Kiko someday and he said '*senador.*'

"That meant so much to me and it still does. I wish my dad were alive to watch Kiko fight this battle because he really adored Kiko."

Sharon has given her full support to her husband's political venture. She is not merely on the sidelines, but tirelessly campaigns for Kiko, on top of taking care of their four-month-old baby, **Frankie,** and doing a weekly program on ABS-CBN.

She sings in PPC rallies and once was even responsible for pacifying the anti-Erap crowd that was heckling the administration candidates during a provincial sortie.

Of course, Sharon wants to see her husband occupying a Senate seat, but she also refuses to jeopardize her relationship with her loved ones.

Courageous newsmen

THE reporters, photographers and cameramen who bravely dodged bullets and risked their lives to cover the attack by pro-Erap supporters on Malacañang last Tuesday should be lauded.

The courage of GMA 7 reporter **Maki Pulido** is truly admirable. Maki was right where the action was, evading bullets, stones and all.

Even when she was panting or running for her life, Maki's fear was hardly evident. She delivered the news and gave a blow-by-blow account of what was happening. At one point, she said she was taking refuge behind a tree to avoid the shower of rocks and the angry mob. Still, she never missed a beat in reporting.

Maki reminded me of **Jessica Soho**, fearless and willing to do anything just to get the news.

The other female reporters on the scene were just as dauntless, like ABS-CBN's **Nadia Trinidad** and **Carmelita Valdez.**

SOLID SUPPORT. Sharon Cuneta with husband Kiko Pangilinan and baby Frankie.

While ABS-CBN had an exclusive coverage of the arrest of Sen. **Juan Ponce-Enrile** in his Makati residence, GMA outdid its rival by doing a live interview with President Macapagal on "Saksi" early that evening.

It was probably the best time to hear the President speak, after the averted attack on Malacañang. And news anchor **Mike Enriquez** asked all the important and pertinent questions viewers wanted to hear.

Later that night, the President also aired a live message on "Frontpage," anchored by **Mel Tiangco**, who also interviewed her.

Inquirer phographer **Jess Yuson** required several head stitches after he was hit by a piece of a hollow block.

CUNETA. Sings radio-friendly tunes in her latest album.

'NOTHING I WANT MORE'

The Megastar in her element

By Fred Samantela

IT is fitting that beautiful things surround someone called Megastar.

The ballroom of Country Waffles in Greenhills is gilded in gold and has an impressive painting on the ceiling of a 15th century French landscape. Clusters of dried flowers hang like chandeliers. On each table are potpourri centerpieces made of more dried flowers with candle stands dressed as topiaries.

But lunch has been over and Sharon is unusually late for her press conference. A taping the night before or an extended stay at the salon?

After a few hours, she finally arrives, fresh and dressed to the nines. She heads straight for the group of press people and immediately starts answering questions to make up for her tardiness, for which she also apologizes. After a few minutes, the show is off and running.

The affair launches her album "Nothing I Want More," which is, hold your breath, all-retro, a collection of well selected hits from the '80s. Sharon starts off with "He's Out of My Life," a Michael Jackson original suggested by her producer, Baby Gil.

It is good news that Sharon has done an easy-listening pop album that doesn't require the usual grandiose movie-theme arrangements. She has done a couple of pop albums before but these were smothered by succeeding recordings of movie theme songs.

Sharon next sings "Please Don't Ask Me" by John Farnham, a hit here from an obscure artist in the '80s. She follows it up with the theme from the movie "The Promise," which we are told is special to Sharon.

There is a show-stopping Barry Manilow medley of "Even Now" and "Somewhere Down the Road." I cannot imagine Manilow's songs arranged in another manner.

Sharon last sings the single "Nothing I Want More," first recorded by Eugene Villaluz and Louie Reyes for the Metropop.

Pop singing requires a different technique and Sharon is well aware of this. In this album, she restrained herself and it worked.

Technically, the album is well produced. It took one year to finish, mainly because only one arranger was privileged to handle it, to maintain the style and the recording quality. That's how concept albums go.

The rest of the album goes Top 40s with "Careless Whisper" by Wham, "Don't Forget Me" by Toni Tenille, "Maybe" by Roberta Flack, "Overjoyed" by Stevie Wonder and "Smile Again" by Manhattan Transfer.

I personally like "Careless Whisper" because it is pop/rock. But this is a difficult song for a ballad singer. So is "Overjoyed."

I also like "Don't Forget Me," "Smile Again" and "Maybe."

The album is radio-friendly and will widen her A-B market.

Sharon is in her element in this album.

Isabel newest movie mermaid

THE BIG water fantasy comes true as Regal Entertainment welcomes the long, hot summer with a refreshing breeze of cinema with Isabel Granada's launching picture, "Halik ng Sirena."

The film, directed by Joven Tan, ushers the sexy, young actress' entry into the bigtime, as she plunges headlong into her first major role as the screen's newest siren.

"This is the chance I've long been waiting for, a film to finally launch me as a major actress," says Isabel. "Everybody knows that I've been in the business for a long time. I started out as a child star and I worked long and hard all these years. This is a very exciting time for me and I plan to give my best and my all to really make it big."

Regal gives stellar billing to Isabel who plays a mermaid in the drama-fantasy picture opposite Carlos Morales, who comes fresh from his best actor victory from the recently held Star Awards for Movies.

In "Halik ng Sirena," Isabel Granada dares where past celluloid mermaids dared not.

"It's been a long time since moviegoers last saw a mermaid in the movies," explains Isabel. "And the last time they did, it was nothing like what we have here in 'Halik ng Sirena.' What I'm trying to say is, we had to be really convincing. We just had to be as faithful as we could to how the mythical figure is imagined by many."

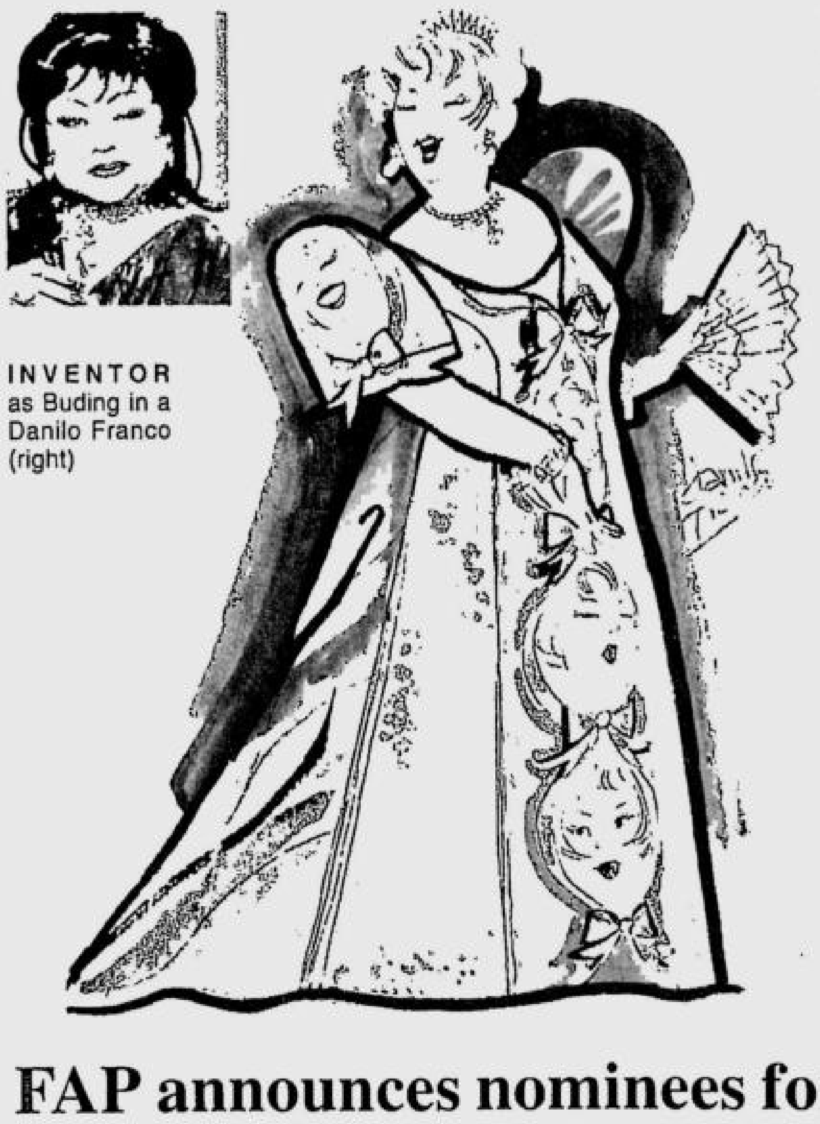
GRANADA. Makes a visual blast in "Halik ng Sirena."

The coming of Regal's "Halik ng Sirena" to the cinema circuit this summer makes itself felt even more strongly among the public.

"The beginning of the year has seen a lot of films just as exciting both in foreign and local cinema," says Isabel. "Regal came up with the idea of reworking a classic genre with our movie. *Kakaiba pa rin kasi ang* appeal *ng sirena* on film. Timeless *talaga siya.*"

"Halik ng Sirena was shot in far-flung locations like the crystal-clear waters of Anilao, Batangas.

The movie also features a sterling support cast that includes Anita Linda, Gerald Madrid, Pinky Amador, Martin Gonzalo and Bianca Lapuz.



INVENTOR as Buding in a Danilo Franco (right)

Buding runs for 'senator'

AFTER a long hiatus from the entertainment scene, Doña Buding is back.

The premiere night of "Buding 4 Senator" on April 20 at Music Museum was a resounding success.

Prominent figures from entertainment and business flocked to the venue to witness Buding's great comeback. Among them were Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala and his daughter Sofia with her husband, thespians Audie Gemora, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Carlo Orosa, Bimbo Cerrudo, Robert Seña, folk icon Florante and pop-soul diva Jaya.

"Buding 4 Senator" returns for more encores, May 9 and 10 at Onstage Greenbelt and May 11 and 12 at Music Museum. Showtime is at 9 p.m.

The show is directed by Tony Espejo and written by Joey Reyes. Musical director is Jesse Lucas.

For tickets, call 895-8314/ 897-9986 or Manila Genesis Entertainment at 725-1937.

FAP announces nominees for 2000 films

THE FILM Academy of the Philippines (FAP) announces the nominees for cinematic achievements for the year 2000.

The FAP awards are given by peers in the movie industry, the local version of Hollywood's Oscars. The nominees are:

Best picture—"Abandonada" (Viva Films), "Anak" (Star Cinema), "Bayaning Third World" (Cinema Artists), "Deathrow" (GMA Films), "Tanging Yaman" (Star Cinema)

Best director—Laurice Guillen ("Tanging Yaman"), Joey Reyes ("Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin"), Joel Lamangan ("Deathrow"), Olive Lamasan ("Minsan Minahal Kita"), Rory Quintos ("Anak")

Best screenplay writer—Lualhati Bautista ("Gusto Ko ng Lumigaya"), Laurice Guillen/ Raymond Lee/Shaira Salvador ("Tanging Yaman"), Ricky Lee/ Raymond Lee ("Anak"), Ricky Lee/ Olive Lamasan ("Minsan Minahal Kita"), Joey Reyes ("Sugatang Puso")

Best actor—Johnny Delgado ("Tanging Yaman"), Rudy Fernandez ("Palaban"), Eddie Garcia ("Deathrow"), Edu Manzano ("Tanging Yaman"), Dante Rivero ("Azucena")

Best actress—Angelu de Leon ("Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin"), Gloria Romero ("Tanging Yaman"), Vilma Santos ("Anak"), Maricel Soriano ("Abandonada"), Lorna Tolentino ("Sugatang Puso")

Best supporting actor—Patrick Garcia ("Sugatang Puso"), Pen Medina ("Deathrow"), Bojo Molina ("Gusto Ko ng Lumigaya"), Jericho Rosales ("Tanging Yaman"), Roi Vinzon ("Palaban")

Best supporting actress—Amy Austria ("Anak"), Cherie Gil ("Sugatang Puso"), Angelu de Leon ("Abandonada"), Cherry Pie Picache ("Anak"), Daria Ramirez ("Bayaning Third World")

Best cinematographer—Romulo Araojo ("Azucena"), Joe Batac ("Anak"), Shayne Clemente ("Minsan Minahal Kita"), Ramon Marcelino ("Ping Lacson Story"), Charlie Peralta ("Abandonada")

Best editor—Joyce Bernal ("Ika-13 Kapitulo"), Danny Gloria ("Gusto Ko ng Lumigaya"), George Jarlego ("Tanging Yaman," "Anak"), Armando Jarlego ("Bayaning Third World"), Jesus Navarro ("Deathrow")

Best sound engineer—Albert Idioma ("Spirit Warrior," "Deathrow," "Lagarista"), Ramon Reyes ("Tanging Yaman," "Ika-13 Kapitulo")

Best production designer—Edgar Littaua ("Tanging Yaman"), Joey Luna ("Deathrow"), Noel Naval ("Anak").

The FAP awards will be handed out tomorrow night.

Bikini beach buddies launch at Padi's

THE ANNUAL search for San Miguel Beer's Bikini Beach Buddies 2001 for Men and Women will have its grand launch tomorrow night, May 5, at the three-story Padi's Mindave in Mindanao and Congressional Avenues, Quezon City.

Performing in the event are Pido With Take One, Traffic Jam and Toccata.

The second event and summer heat party of the bikini pageant will be at Café Overdrive in Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City on May 12.

The grand send-off party will be held on May 17 at Caramba at The Fort, to be hosted by Louie Pratts and Caloy Pimentel.

The pageant semi-final competition and special recognition awards night will be held at Puerto Galera, on May 25 and 26.

Final proclamation is May 27 at the Purple Ostrich Bar at Island Cove Resort and Leisure Part in Kawit, Cavite.

Padi's Mindave also holds its own exciting Miss Bikini Night pageant supported by Colt 45 of Asia Brewery on May 16.

Van Damme to play kung fu monk in new movie

LOS ANGELES — Jean-Claude Van Damme will put on robes to star in the independent kung-fu flick "The Monk," directed by Ringo Lam ("City On Fire"), Daily Variety reports.

The $25-million movie tells the story of a Shaolin monk who travels to the United States looking for his father, and finds himself in a battle with an evil crime lord, the trade journal said.

"The Monk" will be shot in China, Bulgaria and New York, starting November. *AFP*

Whoopi gets Kennedy Center prize

WASHINGTON—Film comedian Whoopi Goldberg has won the fourth annual Mark Twain Prize for humor, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced Tuesday.

"Our dear Mr. Twain put it best when he said 'Humor is the good-natured side of a truth,'" Goldberg said.

Born and raised in New York City, she performed later in the San Diego area. Working with the Lake Street Hawkeyes Theater Group, she created the characters who became "The Spook Show."

She has written two books: "Alice," for children, and another simply titled "Book."

GOLDBERG

She has starred in many films, including "Sister Act" and "The Color Purple."

In 1991, she won an Academy Award for best supporting actress for her role in the movie "Ghost," which starred Patrick Swayze and Demi Moore.

The prize will be given Oct. 15 at a gala in the Kennedy Center

Concert Hall. Proceeds will be used for the education of young humorists.

The prize was awarded for the first time to Richard Pryor in 1998, and in succeeding years to Jonathan Winters and Carl Reiner. *AP*

Ken Hughes dies

LOS ANGELES—Ken Hughes, the veteran screenwriter and director probably best known for the popular children's movie "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," has died. He was 79.

Hughes, who had been in failing health for some time, died Saturday at a nursing home in Panorama City, his wife Charlotte told the Los Angeles Times.

Loosely based on an Ian Fleming novel, "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" (1968) starred Dick Van Dyke as an eccentric inventor with a magical automobile.

Audiences loved it, but it was not a Hughes favorite.

"I didn't enjoy making it. The film made a lot of money, but that doesn't really make me feel any better about it," he once said.

"On the other hand, I've made pictures that got awards at Berlin and places and didn't make any money, and that doesn't make me feel any better either."

Hughes' favorite film, the one he said he made no concessions on, was "The Trials of Oscar Wilde."

The Liverpool-born Hughes also directed Mae West in "Sextette" (1978) in what turned out to be her last film. *AFP*

Right of publicity

LOS ANGELES—An artist who drew charcoal portraits of "The Three Stooges" must pay fees to the estates of Larry, Moe and Curley, California's Supreme Court has ruled.

In a unanimous decision Monday, the high court rejected Los Angeles artist Gary Saderup's argument that his portraits were protected by the US Constitution's guarantee of freedom of expression.

But the justices, calling the case a "balancing test between the First Amendment and the right of publicity," could "discern no significant transformative or creative contribution" in Saderup's work.

The right of publicity gives entertainers and athletes, or their heirs, the sole ability to cash in on their fame.

Saderup's legal foes are the Stooges' heirs. They contend his drawings—reproduced on lithographs and silkscreened T-shirts—sold because the comedy team had so many fans, not because of the artist's inherent talent.

Saderup's attorney was "surprised and dismayed" by the court's findings.

"The court has now appointed all judges in the state to be art critics, who have the power to decide as to what is 'creative' and what is a mere 'literal depiction,'" said Edward Wilde. "We are currently reviewing our legal options." *AFP*

VAN DAMME

'Friends'

LOS ANGELES—Matthew Perry, star of TV's "Friends," has sold his former home in the Hollywood Hills for close to $839,000.

Perry bought another, four-bedroom home in Beverly Hills in June 1999, for a modest $3.2 million, the Los Angeles Times reports.

The rock, steel and glass house has an "almost industrial" look, the paper said.

The 31-year-old actor — who has previously acknowledged dependence on prescription painkillers — returned from rehab in March to film the finale of his seventh season on "Friends."

He entered rehab in late February for treatment of an "unspecified addiction," the paper said. *AFP*

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
The film contains language and violence which young audiences may find disturbing.
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Eraserheads return to video-making

THE NEW music video, "Maskara," marks the return of Eraserheads to video-making after three years.

The band describes the four-minute video as a melding of sci-fi horror, suspense and fantasy, with a little bit of music thrown in for good measure.

The production was an undertaking of Hollywood proportions, complete with full throttle three-day shooting schedule, a dedicated production design team which included professional costume designers, makeup artists, prop makers, storyboard artists and art directors, plus a duo of talented directors, namely band member-vocalist Ely Buendia and rising new talent Marie Jamora.

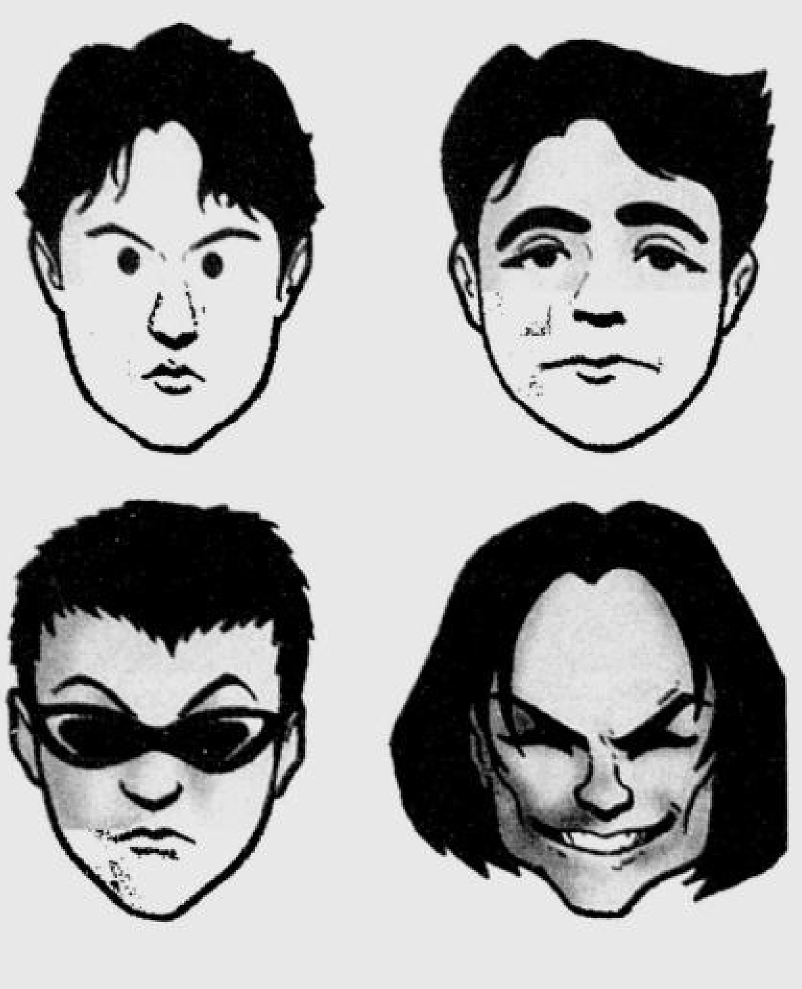
The story happens somewhere in the wasteland of the city where there is a birthday party going on. The guests are riding a rush of soundwaves from the evening's jam, courtesy of the music mercenaries known as Eraserheads.

In an upstairs room, the celebrant, Asia, puts on her party face, while her little sister Kara once again closes the door to her own strange world without knowing that she has unleashed a creature unheard of in this world until now, the face snatcher.

The mysterious entity preys on people with identity problems, collecting faces to feed on like cockroach. As more and more victims pile up, it is up to Kara to discover the secrets of the face snatcher and banish it from whence it came.

Catch the video-watching experience on MTV, where the Eraserheads were recently the featured "MTV I Like" artist in line with the release of their new album, "Carbon Stereoxide," under BMG Records Pilipinas.

This marks the first time a local act gets the distinction of being the music channel's "I Like" artist. It will be recalled that the Eraserheads were also the first local act to be featured in MTV's "Hot Seat" in 1998.



UNMASKED. The Eraserheads quartet of (clockwise from top left) Ely Buendia, Buddy Zabala, Marcus Adoro and Raymund Marasigan in their new MTV, "Maskara."

German thriller opens at Glorietta 4 ArtFilm

GERMANY'S biggest-grossing film last year, the critically applauded medical thriller "Anatomy" (starring "Run Lola Run" actress Franka Potente), is now being screened for the first time in the Philippines, exclusively at Glorietta 4 ArtFilm.

A razor-sharp horror-thriller straight from the morgue, "Anatomy" revolves around an ambitious medical student Paula (Potente) who feels lucky enough to be chosen as part of a prestigious anatomy course taught by a legendary professor. But Paula's delight quickly turns to sheer horror when she finds a young man she met only days before lying in front of her on the dissecting table. Despite all warnings, Paula investigates his mysterious death even if it means putting her own life in danger.

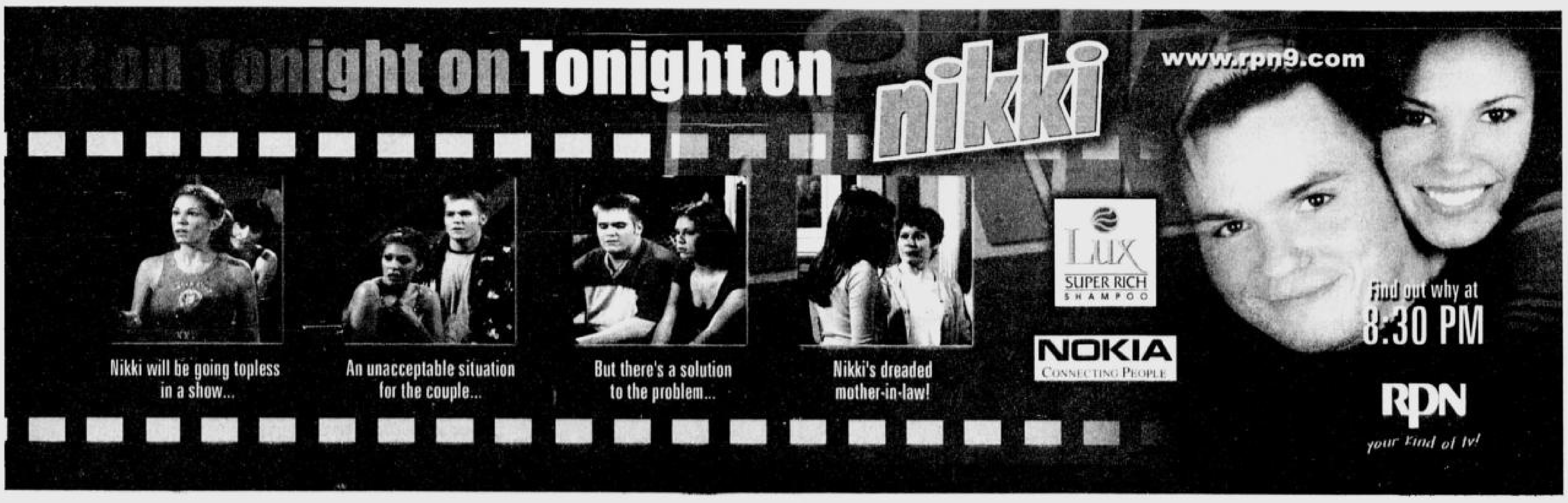
In his review of the film, "Variety" critic Derek Wiley writes, "Director Stefan Ruzowitzky stirs everything from incipient Nazism to mad-doctor horror references into the script but prevents the mix toppling over into send-up by straight playing from the cast. Thanks to Ruzowitzky's cool direction, as well as Potente's offbeat appeal, 'Anatomy' is the best of the recent crop of horror films, even surpassing 'Scream.'"

"Anatomy" is different than Ruzowitzky's previous works. "The main thing was I wanted to get away from the supernatural," he explains. "I wanted to make a genuine shocker which would entertain young people, which they would regard as fun. It couldn't be a spoof, like a Leslie Nielsen film. It wouldn't work with supernatural material. But a thriller and humor—now that works the best."

Deciding how graphic to make the horror to play was very important. "In order to co-ordinate the visual style of the film," Ruzowitzky says. "I decided to use a lightly stylized suggestion of horror, rather than actually showing it."

"Horror is like eroticism," the director adds. "It is much more effective not to show things, to leave to the viewers' imagination. The horror is certainly more gruesome if one cannot see exactly what is going on, but can hear cracking and crunching sounds and is forced to imagine what could be happening."

Pleased and proud of the final product, Ruzowitzky sums up, "'Anatomy' is more sophisticated, in a certain way, than anything else I have made. One has to work very precisely with genre cinema and think exactly how one should present information. First, you must always be aware of what the public is expecting. Then you must decide whether or not you should meet these expectations."



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New TV soap revolves around male protagonist

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DIETHER Ocampo is excited about his new ABS-CBN drama series—especially because it's the first local TV soap that revolves around a male protagonist. It's a radical departure from the tearjerker norm, alright, so if Diether is able to pull it off, it'll be a particularly bright feather on his cap.

To add more sizzle to the new show, it will also feature the currently controversial **Carmina Villaroel**. This is the casting break Carmina needs to bring her back to the swim of things after her extended absence from the big and small screens for the past many months.

What's Diether's new show's title? It doesn't have one yet. This slow but sure approach is fine with us because ABS-CBN hasn't been coming up with catchy titles for its new shows of late, like "The Body and the Guard."

It's better that the channel takes its time thinking up a title for Diether's new soap, but it had better come up with a good one.

How will a male-oriented soap differ from the usual, female-centered variety? For starters, it should have more dynamic and physical conflicts, and Diether's character will probably get romantically involved with a number of women.

As for the tearjerker elements, they could get toned down in favor of other ways to keep viewers interested, like colorful characters, more passionate romantic scenes and a more eventful plotline.

How will this affect the show's demographics? The goal is to be able to retain the soap format's predominantly female viewership *and* add to it by getting some male viewers to watch the show. After all, they now have a male protagonist to empathize with.

But, will female viewers remain loyal to a drama show with a male lead? The hope is that Diether's popularity with female viewers will do the trick for him and his "experimental" new TV starrer.

To help keep female viewers interested, some women in the show can be built up in strong subplots so that they have affectingly emotional things happening to them that can generate empathy from female viewers, even if they aren't the lead characters in the show.

These women could be related to Diether's character, or be developed along parallel lines to his. The important thing is to be able to give female viewers somebody to root for or care about other than the show's male lead.

Saturday escapades

NATIONAL Geographic Channel's "Saturday Unlimited" series (at 7 p.m.) presents four special shows this month. On May 5, three hours of "sun-related programming" fields "Decedents of the Sun," "The Sun" and "Sun Blast."

On May 12, the focus is on China, with the shows "Child Wild," "Miniature Dynasties: Insects of China," "The Bare Animals of China" and "Pandas: Living with Giants."

Meet Laura Prepon

ABC-5's "That '70s Show" (Tuesdays at 9 p.m.) fields a number of bright, young discoveries, led by **Laura Prepon as Donna**. Prepon clinched the important role despite the fact that she had virtually no TV experience to speak of.

And yet, her combination of exceptional looks and talent enabled her to beat hundreds of other young actresses, many of them far more experienced, for the coveted part.

But Prepon is not as raw a talent as her relative lack of TV and movie credits would lead us to believe. When she was still a child, she had already set her sights on a performing career, so she took lessons in ballet and piano for years, and did a lot of runway, modeling in Paris and Milan before she got her career-making break in "That '70s Show."

When that big break finally came, she was good and ready!

Aiza sings! Bow

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

THE SINGING voice of former child star Aiza Seguerra, according to Vicor Records executive MG Mozo, is "exceptionally good."

The original plan of Vicor was to produce a single first to determine how the public would react to Aiza as a singer. The plan was junked after MG went to Joekher, a club where Aiza and her band perform.

"I was impressed," Mozo said after she heard Aiza sing live. "She is so good a singer that she doesn't deserve just a single. We don't mind gambling on Aiza and producing a CD album.

"It is established that Aiza possesses a good singing voice," she added. "The rest depends on the right choice of materials or songs, and aggressive marketing to promote the album."

Aiza's album is titled "Pagdating ng Panahon," which is also the title of one of the cuts. Composed by Edith Gallardo and Moy Ortiz, the title cut is about loving someone from afar and wishing that this someone will reciprocate the love.

Says album producer Margot Gallardo: "The album is loaded with cuts that speak of relationships, friendship and love. In a sense, it is also about teenage empowerment since Aiza is only 17.

"The four original songs in the album were based on Aiza's experiences, feelings and emotions. During one long session, she spoke about the pains and joys that life has so far brought her way. All that we did was set these to music."

The cut "Sorry," for example, which Aiza dedicates to her parents, talks about the wrongs she has done her loved ones. The words were written by Edith Gallardo.

"The Right One" is about friendship, a relationship that can also take place between lovers, and children and parents.

The once precocious child star tries to add her own nuances to old hits, such as Don McLean's "If We Try," Bread's "If" and Bobby Caldwell's "Take Me, I'll Follow." She also revives "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" and the VST original "Ikaw ang Aking Mahal."

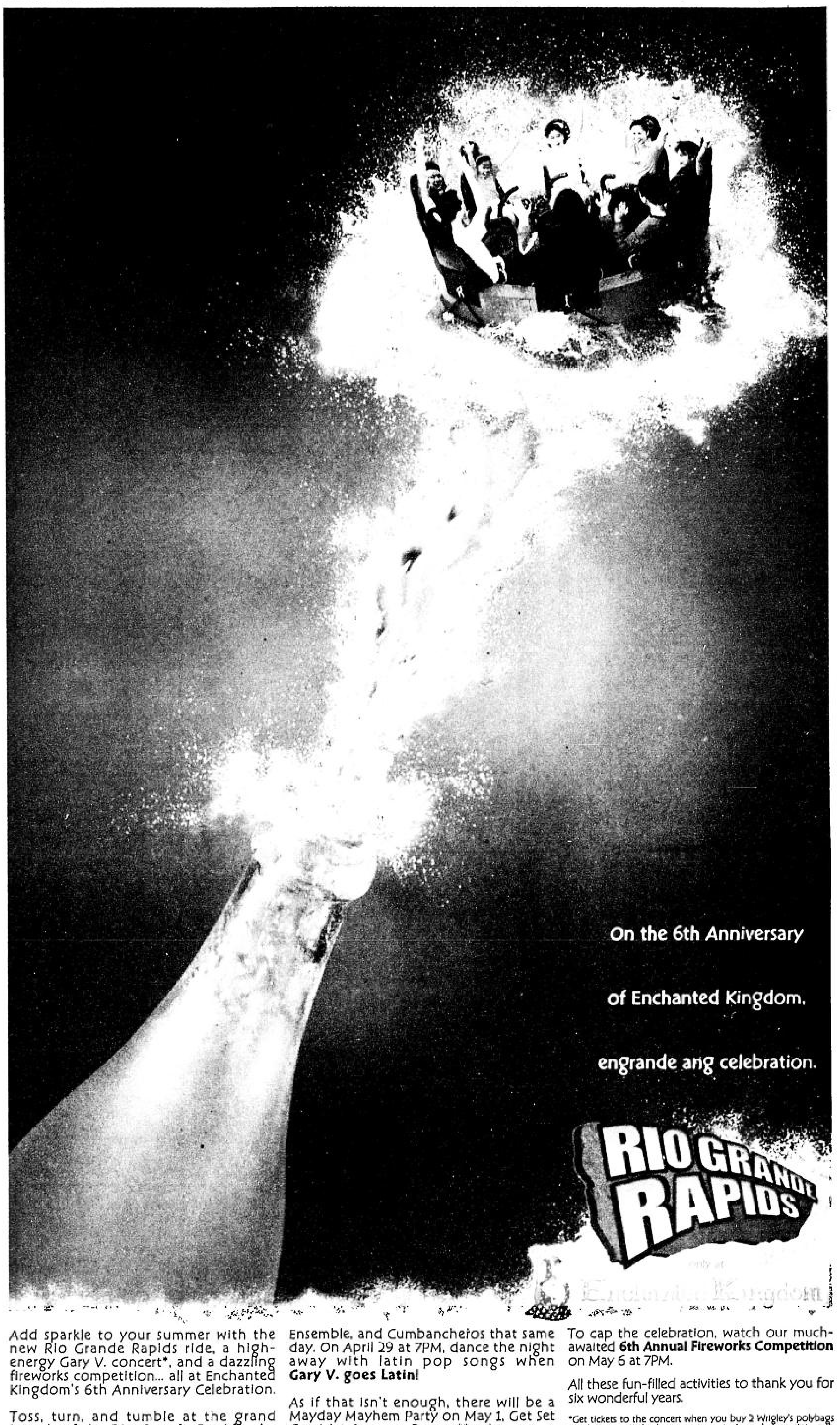
GUITAR GIRL Aiza Seguerra impressed Vicor executives with her singing voice.

Aiza is currently taking up Music, major in guitar, at the University of Sto. Tomas.

But Aiza does not play the guitar in the album. Recording her guitar-playing would require so much time that Vicor gave up the idea.

"Pagdating ng Panahon" is an early birthday gift for Aiza, who will turn 18 in September. Since the former child star who is fast turning into an adult loathes wearing a formal gown or having an escort, she plans to celebrate the day with her family at the Laguna resort Villa Escudero. Instead of hosting a lavish party, Aiza prefers to buy a new car.

Aiza will start promoting her album on May 5 and she comes full circle: Her first promo appearance will be on "Eat Bulaga," the noontime television show that introduced the four-year-old girl to audiences and made her a household name.



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As if that isn't enough, there will be a Mayday Mayhem Party on May 1, Get Set Get Wet Summer Promo**, plus get a chance to win a family trip to Hongkong in the Happy Families Go to EK & HK Raffle Promo**

To cap the celebration, watch our much-awaited **6th Annual Fireworks Competition** on May 6 at 7PM.

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4	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
8	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MEXICAN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
9	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
7	DTS	THE MEXICAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
5	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
9	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
10	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE GIFT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
6	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
4	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
6	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	SECRET OF THE ANDES

SM PAMPANGA 7126015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	THE MEXICAN

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound

1	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	EXIT WOUNDS THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	FINDING FORRESTER in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MEXICAN in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	SUGAR AND SPICE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	SAY IT ISN'T SO in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	EXIT WOUNDS in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SUGAR AND SPICE in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	EXIT WOUNDS THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	SAY IT ISN'T SO in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MEXICAN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SUGAR AND SPICE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MEXICAN
8	BALIKTARAN
9	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	HALIK NG SIRENA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	EXTREME WARRIOR
3 (DTS)	INIT NG DUGO
4	THE CROW
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536 4315

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831 6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE MEXICAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	HALIK NG SERENA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	HALIK NG SERNA
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	SUGAR & SPICE
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	INIT NG DUGO
8	EXTREME WARRIOR

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	EXIT WOUNDS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	ABAKADA...INA
2	MADERASO

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	HALIK NG SIRENA
3	THE SEDUCER

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BALIKTARAN
A	EXIT WOUNDS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	BALIKTARAN

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	HALIK NG SERENA
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
8 (SDDS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
9 (DOLBY)	SUGAR & SPICE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	HALIK NG SIRENA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	EXTREME WARRIOR
9	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	THE MEXICAN
6	EXTREME WARRIOR
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	SUGAR & SPICE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	HALIK NG SIRENA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	HALIK NG SIRENA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	HALIK NG SIRENA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

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Lords	WAG PO WAG PO
Jennet	HALIK NG SIRENA

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	RESERVE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	HALIK NG SIRENA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	BALIKTARAN
4	EXTREME WARRIOR
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	INIT SA DUGO

Baclaran LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SIRENA
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	EXIT WOUNDS
4 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HALIK NG SERENA
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN
5	SWEET NOVEMBER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 8883

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	THEY NEST
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	THE SEDUCER

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BALIKTARAN
2 (DTS)	HALIK NG SERENA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALIKTARAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BALIKTARAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	MADERASO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879 2168

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	EXTREME WARRIOR

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	HALIK NG SIRENA
2	BALIKTARAN
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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ABS-CBN noontime show airs from Enchanted Kingdom

ENCHANTED Kingdom culminates its sixth anniversary celebration this weekend with ABS-CBN's "Magandang Tanghali Bayan (MTB)" live at the theme park's Portabello Zone on Saturday, May 5.

Get ready for a sizzling noontime treat of fun and games with "MTB" hosts Roderick Paulate, Amy Perez, Randy Santiago, John Estrada, Vanessa del Bianco, Christine Jacob, Rico Yan, Marvin Agustin, Dominic Ochoa and the rest of the gang.

Lucky park guests get to participate in the popular game of luck, "Pera o Bayong."

There will be colorful production numbers from celebrity guests staged at various theme zones of the park, like the Portabello where EK's newest family ride attraction, the Rio Grande Rapids, is located.

Capping the sixth anniversary festivities is the much anticipated fireworks competition on May 6, 7 p.m. Witness spectacular pyrotechnics artworks in the skies by six finalists—Six J fireworks, Victory Fireworks, Galaxie Fireworks, Rosca Fireworks, CHC Fireworks and JB Fireworks. The grand winner will receive P100,000.

Enchanted Kingdom is open daily (except Monday and Tuesday) from 2 to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

For bus schedule inquiries, call Philtranco Holidays at 811-6037 or 811-5385. For ticket inquiries, call 830-2111 to 17.

'Eleksyong Pinoy'

WITNESS the most bizarre convergence of stars and celebrities, pop and pageantry, gold and glamor. It is the fiesta to end all fiestas, the Philippine election.

Trace the history of this phenomenon from the days of the Commonwealth to the recent past. Look through the eyes of teachers, religious, social analysts and historians as they try to make sense of this event and what makes the elections truly Filipino.

Join Pidro as he discovers what makes "Eleksyong Pinoy." Danny Javier stars as Pidro, as well as a multitude of politicians playing themselves.

Written by Pete Lacaba and produced by the Jesuit Communications Foundation, "Eleksyong Pinoy" features in-depth interviews with members of the academe, church and government, providing a more sensible look at Philippine elections, in the hope of educating the Filipino voter.

"Eleksyong Pinoy" airs on the ABS-CNN News Channel (ANC 21) on May 5, 8:30 p.m.

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1. EXIT WOUNDS
2. THE MEXICAN
3. SAY IT ISN'T SO
4. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5. HALIK NG SIRENA
6. SUGAR AND SPICE
7. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

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3. HALIK NG SIRENA
4. SAY IT ISN'T SO
5. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
6. RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT

BACOLOD
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1. THE NEST
2. DOUBLE TAKE
3. NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4. THE MEXICAN
5. THE GIFT
6. ABAKADA...INA

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	HALIK NG SIRENA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE MEXICAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	EXTREME WARRIORS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	EXIT WOUNDS
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	BALIKTARAN
ROBEN	ALIW MATAMIS NA LASON
TANDEM-1	ALIW MATAMIS NA LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	HANNIBAL / WAY OF GUN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	HALIK NG SIRENA
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR-2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79, 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-2	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-2	ABAKADA...INA
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WOMAN ON TOP
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-12	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-14	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS. CONGENIALITY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN

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May 4 - Friday
5:50 PM - Exit Wounds
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Friendships that transcend politics

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I HAVE just put down the phone with one of my oldest and closest friends. I prefer not to name him, because he holds an executive position in one of the companies owned by very close members of the Estrada family.

Our friendship has survived sharp differences in opinion. In fact, he was a part of the food brigade when the Erap supporters were at the Edsa Shrine.

We remain friends because we've learned to listen intently to each other, remain honest in our exchange of opinions, yet never raise our voices at each other or be judgmental about our beliefs and motives.

Our friendship has a very deep foundation of 15 years. He is **Josh**'s most thoughtful and consistent godfather, and in every momentous event of my life, whether painful, joyful or pathetic, he's been by my side.

But maybe, and most importantly, the reason we haven't split up despite our political differences is that we've continued to treat each other with respect. And that's a lesson maturity has now taught me. Sometimes a friendship is special enough for you to realize that it's worth holding on to because the love you share does in fact manage to transcend politics.

You can't choose who your friends like, love, or remain loyal to. But you can choose to remain friends or let go. I'm glad we see and treasure the value of holding on.

Why am I writing about this? Because it's time to realize that there's hope for us Filipinos to see beyond political colors. I'm not saying we should coddle, aid and abet, or applaud the actions of criminals in our midst. Neither should we incite people to riot, disappear from the frontline, and then wash our hands clean of any accountability.

But isn't it about time some of us stopped heaping scorn on everybody associated with the Estradas? Sometimes we make a sweeping condemnation while failing to consider that there may be mitigating circumstances or deep emotional ties that warrant their show of loyalty.

In Edsa II, I was guilty of lashing out at **Phillip (Salvador)** for rallying on Mendiola in support of then President Erap and standing by while speakers lambasted my mom and accused her of being a thief and extolled the virtues of the 11 "No" senators.

I took it as a personal affront, and spoke out personally and publicly against Phillip.

And now I no longer blame him for standing by the fallen president and one of his best friends, presidential son **Jinggoy**. Neither do I blame **Fernando Poe Jr.** or **Rudy Fernandez**. They just stayed true to their promise of "*walang iwanan* (we won't leave our friends)" and were thankfully prudent enough to not make any incendiary statements promoting the downfall of the legitimate Arroyo government.

When the chips are down, wouldn't we all wish to have friends who will stick with us, just like the childhood promise of "through thick and thin, sick and sin?" I know their loyalty needs and needed no monetary compensation.

So different from the performers who mounted the stage at Edsa from April 25-30, who did so because of the reported fee of P15,000 to P20,000 per appearance.

If they felt so strongly for the former president and truly believed that he was unjustly treated, why the need for a cash inducement?

Maybe that's why most of them remain obscure. Those who saw them on Net 25 had to search their brains for the identity of the performers and what day on "That's Entertainment" they used to belong.

And maybe that's why Edsa II's roster remains awesomely stellar, because the artists who performed or spoke, like **Martin Nievera, Gary Valenciano, Rossana Ortiz, Pops Fernandez, the Apo Hiking Society, Ariel Rivera, Ogie Alcasid** and so many more, were there because of a sense of purpose and conviction.

I'm sure you also received the text message about the supposedly P1 million a day being paid to Anna's catering by **Laarni Enriquez** for 20,000 food packs. When I read this I said thank goodness she's sharing the wealth. I'm glad the people were well fed because the money that was spent did come from the Filipinos. In this manner at least some of our countrymen are getting to share even just a measly portion of what was stolen from them.

Mother's Day concert at Shangri-La Cinema

A SPECIAL Mother's Day concert will be held on May 12, Saturday, 8 p.m. at Shangri-La Mall's Cinema 1.

The show, dubbed as "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?," is a special treat to all mothers by the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Huggies and Rado. It will feature the country's top vocal talents like Dulce, Butch Montejo, Anna Fegi and Michael Williams in an evening of enchanting and soothing rhythms that celebrate the joys and meaning of motherhood.

The show's repertoire includes feel-good tunes like "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" by Rod Stewart, "When I Fall in Love," "Loving You," "I Wanna Spend My Lifetime Loving You," "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and more.

Concert tickets are now available at the Shangri-La Plaza Ticketron (726-1968/635-2079).

Ticket holders will get free coupons that entitle one to as much as 20 percent discount at selected Shangri-La Plaza Mall shops, plus a chance to win a Rado ladies' watch and other valuable items.

SEAGAL RE-ENTERS IN 'EXIT WOUNDS'

In Warner Bros.' No. 1 blockbuster, "Exit Wounds," Steven Seagal returns to the genre that made him a leading worldwide action superstar with such films as "Nico," "Hard To Kill," "Out for Justice," "Under Siege" and "Executive Decision." The role of Orin Boyd in "Exit Wounds" has a real resonance for Seagal, who found a kinship in his latest screen role.

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SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00	NARINIG MO BA ANG LATEST - P13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:45	THE MEXICAN - P 13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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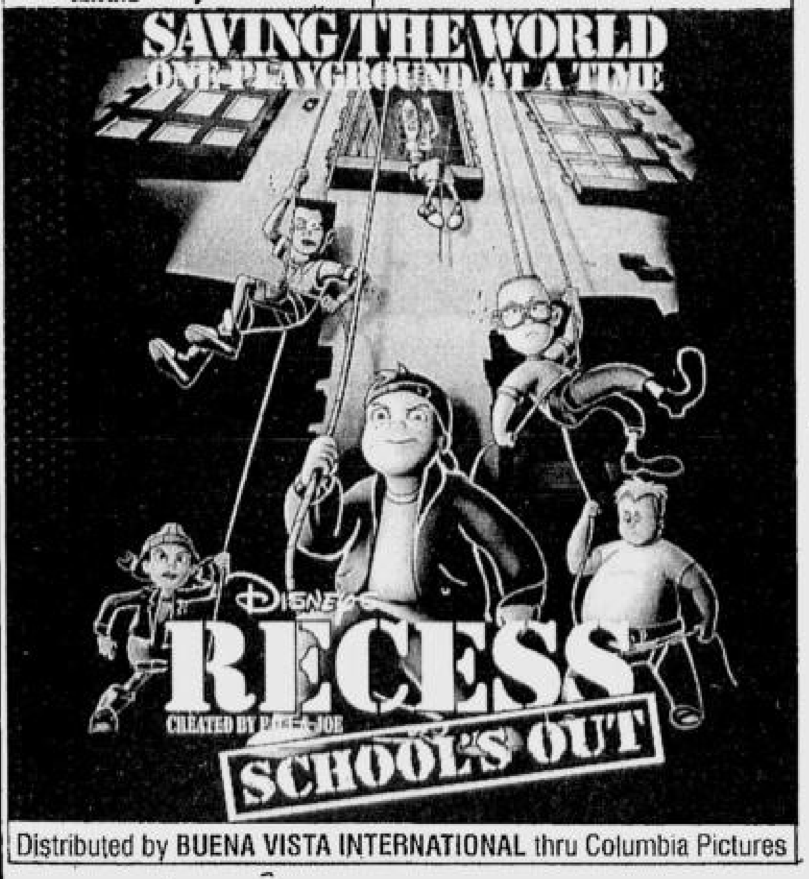

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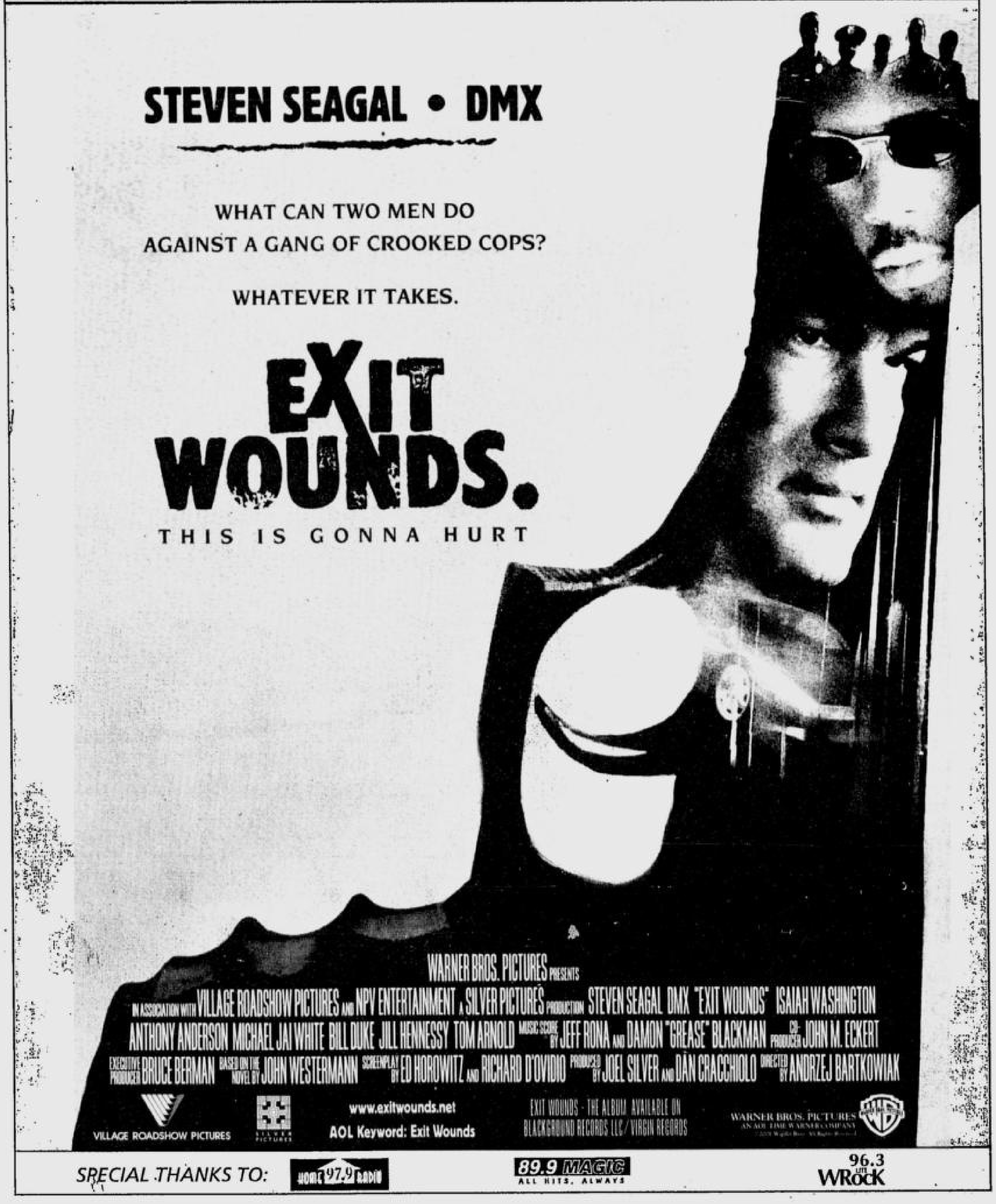

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BUSINESS
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Cojuangco retains control of SMC

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

BUSINESSMAN Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco yesterday overcame efforts of the Macapagal administration to gain control of San Miguel Corp.

Without any restraining order from the courts, the board of the food and beverage giant yesterday allowed the group of Cojuangco to vote the shares sequestered by the government.

Cojuangco managed to get the 15 incumbent San Miguel board members—including the five nominated during the term of deposed President Joseph Estrada—reelected during yesterday's stockholders' meeting.

Of the 15, only two are considered nominees of the Macapagal administration: Social Security System Administrator Vitaliano Nañagas II and Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia.

The ruling of San Miguel corporate secretary Francis Jardeleza to allow management to vote the sequestered shares in effect spurned the government's bid to vote those shares and install its own nominees in the country's largest food and beverage conglomerate.

Jardeleza issued the ruling after a government representative asked the San Miguel board to vote on the shares held by the CIIF group.

The San Miguel shares held by the CIIF group were part of the 47-percent block sequestered by the government of then President Corazon Aquino on suspicion these were part of the ill-gotten wealth of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his friends.

"Since the shareholder meetings since 1997, these companies have submitted proxies authorizing them to vote the shares. In today's meeting, the 14 companies (CIIF group) have similarly submitted proxies," Jardeleza told shareholders in their annual meeting.

The 47-percent sequestered shares in San Miguel include a 20-percent stake held by Cojuangco, a friend of both Estrada and Marcos. *(See related story on Page B7.)*

Elected to the San Miguel board yesterday were: Cojuangco, Ramon Ang, Francisco Eizmendi, Manuel Cojuangco, Estelito Mendoza, Gabriel Villareal, Faustino Galang and Iñigo Lopez. The five holdover Erap nominees reelected to the board were Estrada brother-in-law Raul de Guzman, Alan Lopez Lee, Benjamin Paulino, Hermogenes Tantoco and Espiridion Laxa.

Acting PCGG chief George Sarmiento said most of these directors would have a temporary term until the Supreme Court shall have handed down its ruling on whether the Macapagal administration can nominate its directors using the sequestered shares.

State pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) had filed a petition with the Court of Appeals to stop the company's annual meeting after a regional trial court junked GSIS' request to delay the meeting and compel the firm to reopen nominations to its board of directors.

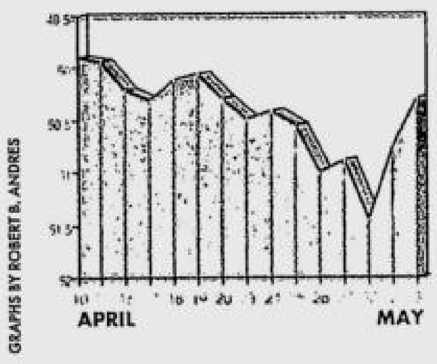
GSIS is leading government ef-

COJUANGCO/ B7

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

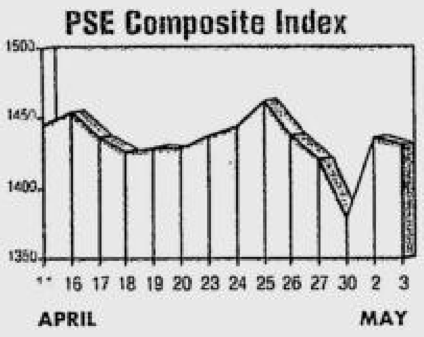
P 50.28 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
May 3, 2001

¥ 121.72 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.72 as of 5 p.m., May 3, 2001

GOLD:$265.90/266.40
per ounce Hong Kong,
May 3, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B5)

Shares down marginally

SHARES ended marginally lower yesterday in a technical correction following huge gains in the previous session, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed barely above its 1430-point trendline support, with a 5.49-point, or 0.4 percent, loss to 1430.39.

The main index rose 4.1 percent Wednesday as investors cheered the government's decisiveness in stopping Tuesday's violent protests by supporters of jailed former President Joseph Estrada, traders said.

"Thursday's market performance is a reality check," said Astro del Castillo, research head of A&A Securities. "Concerns remain since we aren't completely over the hump yet."

The market remains jittery amid concern of more violence, traders said. *AP*

ETPI elects new president

THE BOARD of directors of Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has elected Pablo Lobregat as the new president and chief executive officer of the company.

Lobregat, who is also president of Aerocom Investors and Managers Inc. of former Ambassador Manuel Nieto, replaced Salvador C. Hizon as president of ETPI after an election was held during a board meeting last April 27.

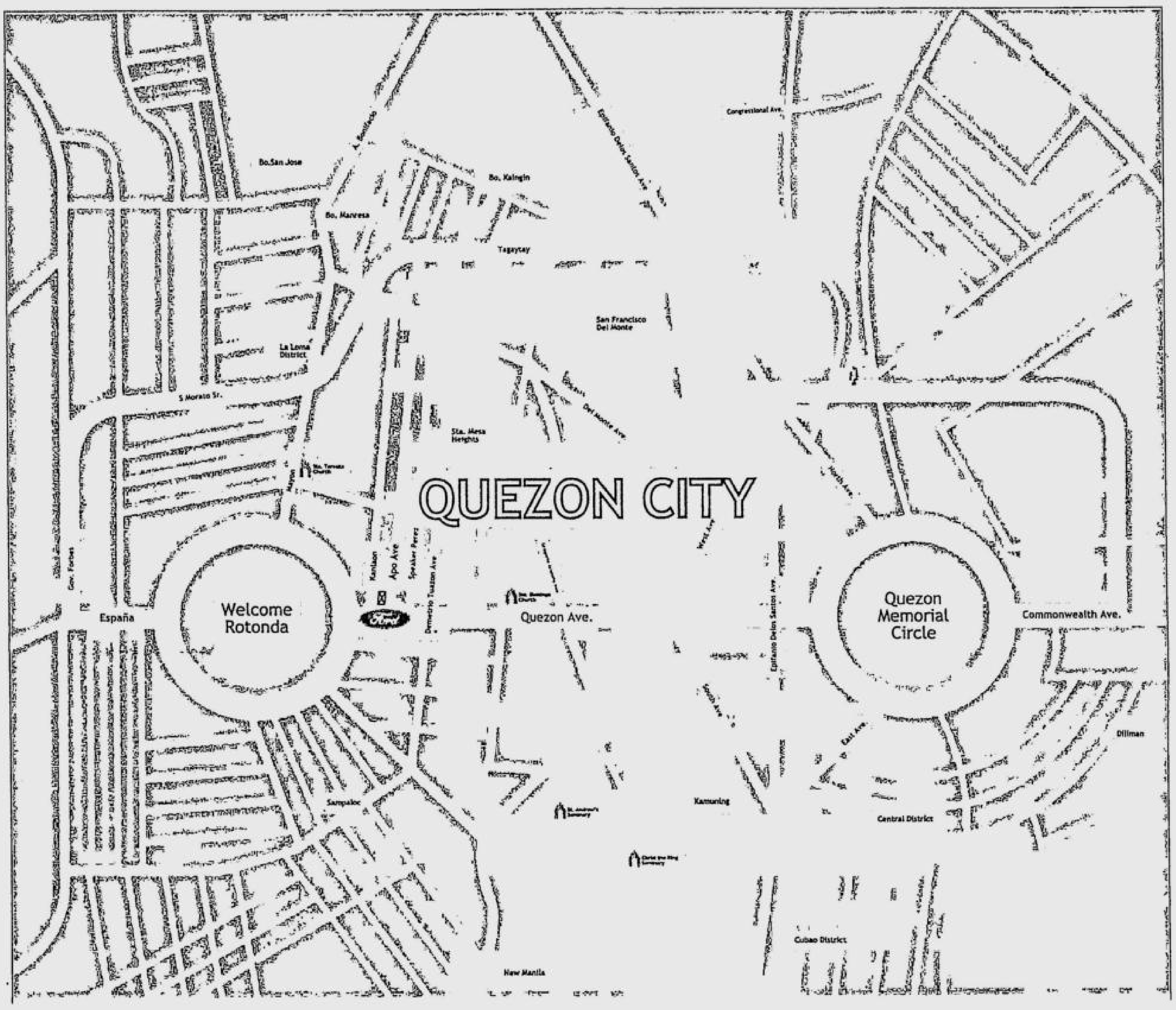
This will reflect the shift in majority control of the company to ETPI's new strategic foreign partner, Australian Gigahertz Network Inc., which recently acquired a 40-percent stake in ETPI for $21 million.

Hizon will remain in the ETPI board as director. The other members of the five-member board include ETPI board chair Dr. Richard Freyer and Robert Murdoch of AGN, and Emiliano P. Jurado, who was the former chair.

The acquisition of a 40-percent stake in ETPI by AGN last year and the offer of another 17.7-percent stake by the Nieto group's Aerocom Investors to the local partner of AGN early this year has given the Australian firm control of the company.

In December last year, the Nieto group, through Aerocom, finalized the transfer of its 40-percent stake in ETPI to AGN.

By tapping local partners, AGN would be able to skirt a legal constraint that limits foreign ownership in a public utility company to only 40 percent.



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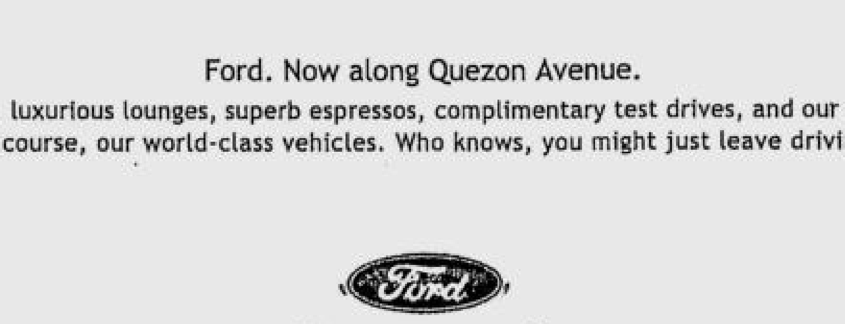

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Drop in Jan-March exports to hit economy

THE COUNTRY'S merchandise exports fell for the second consecutive month in March, pointing to slower growth in the economy in the first quarter compared to the end of last year.

The National Statistics Office said exports dropped 4 percent year-on-year to $2.868 billion in March from $2.989 billion in the same period last year.

In February, exports fell by an annual 3.3 percent because of the economic slowdown in the United States, the major destination of Philippine exports.

Exports eased 0.5 percent to $8.56 billion for the first three months of the year from $8.607 billion.

"(Weak export numbers) will be reflected in a weak GDP figure in the first quarter," said David Cohen, economist at MMS/S&P in Singapore.

Cohen said he expected Philippine gross domestic product to show an annual growth of 2.5 percent in the first quarter after an annual growth of 3.6 percent in the fourth quarter of 2000.

John Cairns, an economist at IDEAglobal in Singapore, also forecast GDP growth of 2.5 percent in the first quarter.

"Obviously, a slowing export environment will hit the GDP figures but again, since the slump in exports is not too sharp, the GDP figures should not be too bad," Cairns said.

Exports account for nearly 50 percent the Philippines' GDP.

Cohen said prospects in the export sector were clouded by uncertainties about the US economy, the destination for most Philippine electronics exports.

"Everybody's hoping for a pick-up in electronics exports in the second quarter, but this is based mostly on faith," he said.

"And for the Philippines, it means it will have difficulties achieving its export growth and GDP growth targets this year."

The government aims to achieve a GDP growth of 3.8 percent year-on-year in 2001 after a growth of 3.9 percent last year.

Annual growth in exports was forecast to slow to 4 percent this year from 8.7 percent in 2000.

The National Statistics Office said revenues from electronics components—accounting for 55.8 percent of March exports—were down 11.2 percent at $1.6 billion from $1.802 billion a year earlier.

Exports to the United States, accounting for 26.5 percent of exports in March, dropped 13.3 percent to $761.26 million from $877.6 million in the same month last year. ***Reuters***

LORENZO
SHIPPING CORPORATION
"WE CARRY, WE MOVE, WE DELIVER."

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS:

Please be informed that the Annual Shareholders' Meeting of **LORENZO SHIPPING CORPORATION** ("LSC") shall be held at the Dusit Hotel, Makati City, on Wednesday, 16 May 2001, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning, for the following purposes:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice and Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Shareholders' Meeting held on 31 May 2000
4. Management Report
5. Approval of Audited Financial Statements as of 31 December 2000
6. Amendment of Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation to increase the authorized capital stock of the Company, from Four Hundred Million Pesos (P400,000,000.00) to a maximum of Seven Hundred Million Pesos (P700,000,000.00), and to authorize the issuance of Three Hundred Million (300,000,000) preferred shares, at a par value of One Peso (P1.00) per share.
7. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and of Management, done in the ordinary course of business as of 2000
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditors
10. Other matters
11. Adjournment

The Board of Directors of LSC has fixed the RECORD DATE for stockholders entitled to vote at this annual meeting to be on 16 April 2001.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 11 May 2001.

Registration starts at 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please have some form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport, or Driver's License.

Very truly yours,

ARSENIO C. CABRERA, JR.
Corporate Secretary

Labor Day cry: 'May Day! May Day!'

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHAT the labor sector needs are not Labor Day speeches but salvation, deliverance from their misery and frustration.

The other day, we celebrated Labor Day and asked what is the relevance of that celebration to the millions of suffering Filipino workers. Today, we continue to reflect on the pitiful conditions under which our working class tries vainly to survive as workers face unabated poverty, continuing corruption and a society that is becoming inhuman and oppressive despite the government's heroic attempts to turn around the situation.

If you have a struggling Third World country with a population of 77 million and still counting, about 50 million of whom are trying hard to survive below the poverty line, what would you do to alleviate the sufferings of the people and save the nation from social upheaval and total disintegration? If about 5 million of your labor force are unemployed and another 5 million are underemployed and your masses have no purchasing power, what intervention would you venture into in order to help your people?

If millions of your citizens are living under subhuman conditions in disease-infested, pollution-inflicted and crime-laden squatter areas, in esteros and under bridges, would a Labor Day speech mitigate the pains and affliction of the urban poor? If your farmers are still not liberated from the bondage of the soil because your hacienderos have found creative ways to circumvent the Agrarian Reform Program, and you have a growing restlessness among the peasants, what would you do to arrest a social revolution?

Lingering social cancer

If your streets are swarmed with beggars, thieves and prostitutes, street urchins who are hardly in their teens, muggers lurking in every corner and male, female and child prostitutes. If your homes are no longer safe as drug addicts may come and go to ransack your belongings, rape your wife and daughters, murder your children and rob you of whatever cash or possessions?

If your youth are out in the streets instead of schools because parents cannot afford the high cost of education. If the elderly are neglected by society, if the handicapped and the sick have nowhere to go. If your hospitals don't have competent doctors and nurses as they opt to work in New York and Abu Dhabi. If clinics don't have adequate medicines and facilities, where shall you bring the diseased, the injured and the infirm?

Broken homes, broken dreams

If your homes are shattered, your marriages broken and the quality of family life deteriorated because your fathers are OFWs in Saudi, your mothers being enslaved as housemaids in Singapore and in Hong Kong, your sons are seamen out there in the oceans and your daughters, sexy dancers in Japan, what future is left for this country?

If your young girls are being molested by fathers while mothers work in Taiwan, if your young boys are being taken as sex toys by foreign pedophiles and your students study at daytime and work as sex objects at night, if the moral fibers of society are being eaten up by the compelling urge to survive, what kind of nation are we building now?

Why encourage OFWs?

Why do we have to merchandise our human resources abroad and feel proud that we are one of the top labor-exporting economies? Why do we, as a matter of State policy, encourage brain drain? Why do we relish the idea of Filipino talents developing the Middle East economy? Why do we call OFWs the modern heroes? Is it because of the almighty dollars that they bring home to fill our coffers?

Why do we risk destroying the Filipino family, which used to be the most solid foundation of our nation? Why do we send our doctors abroad when right here, we have thousands of sick people who have no medical care? Why do we send our engineers to Iraq when our country is in dire need of technical skills? Why do we squander human resources in foreign shores when our country remains underdeveloped.

Unprotected, marginalized

The informal sector in the labor force—sacada workers in Negros, "muro ami" divers in Cebu, pearl divers in Sulu, gold panners in the Mountain Province, garbage and junk gatherers in Payatas and other slums of Metro Manila, casual workers, contractuals, the "pakyaw" and takay laborers—who will protect them? They have no health insurance, social security or welfare programs.

Who will champion the cause of the unprotected? Who will worry about the least of your brethren, they who sleep in the sidewalks or live in "caritons," they who are homeless, jobless and hopeless? Who will think about the health, safety and welfare of beggars along Roxas Boulevard, prostitutes along Quezon Avenue and the rugby-sniffing youngsters in the peripheries of Quiapo and Sta. Cruz?

In search of a savior

Who will save our workers and our poor? Is it the politician whose main agenda is to cheat in the elections and buy his way to Congress or to LGUs? Is it the labor leader whose main concern is to advance his own financial or political objectives? Is it the bureaucrat who doesn't consider the workers his main clientele?

What then is Labor Day to the struggling masses who don't even know where their next meal will come from? What is the meaning of Labor Day to the poor who cannot eat the Labor Code or cure their hunger, nakedness and sickness with glowing words of tribute from "trapos" and traditional labor leaders?

Yes, what the suffering masses need are not eloquent speeches by candidates and bureaucrats. They need a little concern, a little sincerity, a small doze of attention from those who can and those who should. And we better respond quickly before we get a social upheaval of unprecedented proportions. The workers are getting hungrier and angrier. We better get moving. Tomorrow may be too late.

(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following e-mail address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph)

A STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND COMMENDATION

We commend PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO for her decisive leadership in the face of recent efforts to topple her administration.

We applaud her decision to pursue a policy of maximum tolerance and a calibrated use of presidential power.

We are proud of the grace she showed under pressure.

We strongly support her decision to go after those who manipulated the poor for the pursuit of their own selfish ends.

We see the need to address the root of the problem - the pervasive poverty in our land and the alienation of the poor from any benefits of development and governance.

We commit ourselves and enjoin all others in Civil Society, in the Church, in Business and in Government to redouble our efforts to address the problem of poverty.

S. Josefina Magat, ra
SR. JOSEFINA MAGAT, R.A.
President
Assumption College

Nanette Olivares
NANETTE V. OLIVARES
President
Assumption Alumnae Association

Lirio O. Mapa
LIRIO O. MAPA
National Coordinator
Community of Assumption Laity

SONJIE O. TRILLANA
College Class '68
Assumption College

SR.MA.EMMANUEL MELOCOTON,R.A.
Provincial, Philippine-Thailand Province
Religious of the Assumption

O AND AREA CAFÉ, side by side at Robinsons Galleria offer a contemporary ambience to a patron's dining experience.

Pioneering a lifestyle concept in home retail

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SUCCESS STORY

SHOPPING for home décor and accessories [illegible] to be such a drag. If you needed something for the kitchen, you went to the kitchen section of the department store. For silver, you go to another section, and yet another area for table settings and livin[illegible] room accents. [illegible] you do not have an idea on how the different items would look once these are put together.

A brother-and-sister team, along with their close friends, thought there must be a better way to sell furniture and home accessories. They believed there were people out there who, like them, were looking for a single store that sold everything needed to make a house a home.

Using money from their own savings and borrowings from friends and family, the group, led by San Francisco-based Kathleen Talmadge, put up Domain Inc. Other partners were Kathleen's brother, Al Tambunting, an architect responsible for the interior design of all Area Home Stores, and Giovanna Mabanta-Lasheras, who was their main buyer in Europe.

They immediately went to work and started buying the latest in home accessories that Europe, the United States and Asia had to offer. By December 1994, Area Home Store opened its first branch at the SM Megamall, just in time for the Christmas rush.

Area Home Store general manager Wilma Santos-Huang said the store appealed to customers because of the unique layout of the store. It also ended up pioneering the lifestyle concept in home retail in the Philippines.

"We wanted people to experience how our products feel in an actual dining or living room setting. We did not have that before when home accessories were just sold through department stores. In our stores, the clients get an idea of how the products will look like in their homes," Huang explained.

Area Home Store sells accessories such as vases, clocks, rugs, dinnerware, glassware, kitchen equipment, lamps and lighting fixtures. It strives to bring in contemporary items with classic and simple designs so that these can match any home.

Other products were brought in from the United States, Canada, France, Denmark, England, Germany, Spain and Portugal, as well as from Asia.

From the SM Megamall, Area Home Store expanded to Glorietta in July 1996 and then at the Alabang Town Center in September 1999. It is in the thick of preparations for the opening of its flagship store at the Rockwell Power Plant that will showcase new product lines such as linens, hardware, Kartell furniture and special furnishings for kids and teenagers.

Huang attributed the growth of Area Home Store to the unique merchandise the chain carries. The product range enabled Area Home Store to survive and even flourish despite the Asian currency crisis that brought down many other companies that sold imported items.

"Since opening its first store in 1994, Area has been able to influence lifestyle aspirations and needs. It has built a reputation for customer service, creativity, anticipating lifestyle trends and uniqueness in thoughts and ideas. We try to be always ahead of the pack," she said.

One of the major innovations was the setup of Area Café to complement the stores. It started out in 1996 as a panino bar, selling panini or Italian grilled sandwiches in Manila. Its menu expanded to include Italian cuisine like pasta, prosciutto di parma, tomato, grilled eggplant and gorgonzola.

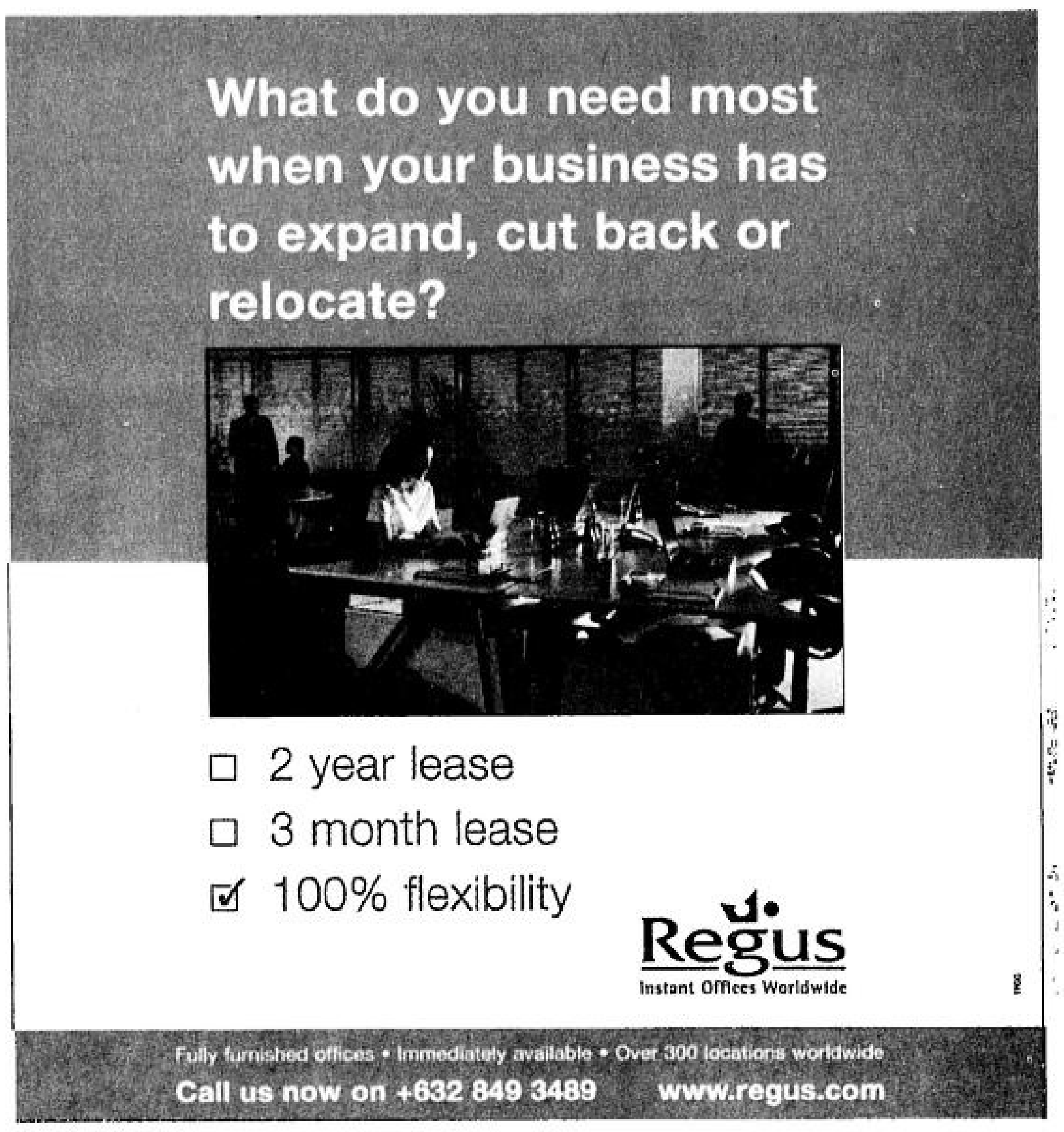
Area Café also offers a wide range of desserts that include the Italian staple tiramisu, banoffee and its rich and hefty chocolate café.

It also recently put up O Café that offered popular and favorite food from the southeast Orient. It put up the first one at Robinsons Galleria and plans to put up two more at the Rockwell Power Plant and at Robinsons Place, Ermita.

"Again, we try to be ahead in anticipating the trends, not just in home furnishings and accessories, but also in food. Our customers know that Area Home Store only carries designer originals such as Luce Plan lamps and soon Kartell items designed by Philippe Starck and Ron Arad. At our cafés, we only use quality and often imported ingredients," she said.

Huang is confident that the commitment to offering the best in classic and timeless merchandise would allow Area Home Store to further expand in the next few years.

"We are committed to what made Area a success from the start—putting our customers first and offering new merchandise that will last. This is our driving force and our motivation," she said.



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WAITS FOR US FED ACTION

BSP keeps overnight rates steady

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has decided to keep key overnight rates steady as the peso continued its recovery.

Emerging from the Monetary board meeting yesterday, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters that the bank would wait for the release of the April annual inflation rate and the results of the US Federal Reserve meeting on May 15 before changing its policy rates.

The National Statistics Office was scheduled to release April inflation numbers today. The US Federal Reserve, on the other hand, was expected to cut short-term interest rates by another half-a-percentage point on the May 15 meeting.

The bank's overnight borrowing rate is currently at 9.5 percent and overnight lending is at 11.75 percent.

Moves to adjust the interest rates were cut short by the recent recovery of the peso against the US dollar that was attributed to the Arroyo administration's successful moves to quell the rebellion by pro-Estrada supporters last May 1.

The peso yesterday firmed up to 50.28 to $1 from the previous close of 50.73.

The financial markets were in an upbeat mood following the government's declaration of a state of rebellion, which was followed by the arrest of suspected leaders.

Buenaventura says the peso should soon move between 50 and 50.50 against the US dollar and move along the same lines as other Asian currencies as investor confidence grows.

Traders said the peso's recovery yesterday was also buoyed by strong inflows of overseas workers' remittances. Inflows usually rise in May as OFWs send money to pay for the tuition fees of their children.

"The feedback of foreign investors was quite positive but the timing was also on the side of the government," a trader from a foreign bank said.

The peso sank to its lowest level of 51.45 under the Macapagal administration last Monday after the markets were spooked by the Edsa rallies organized by the jailed former President's supporters.

Buenaventura expected investors to remain in the sidelines until after the May 14 elections.

With reports from Reuters

AUSTRALIA-FAMILY GETAWAYS ON SINGAPORE AIRLINES

If Down Under is your top priority vacation spot this summer, then here's news from Singapore Airlines that will make you hop with joy! It is about their exciting holiday package very aptly called AUSTRALIA-FAMILY GETAWAYS! The new promotion, which runs from March 22 until May 31, 2001, gives you four lovely Australian destinations to choose from – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Gold Coast

A most ideal getaway for the family, the tour package with a real bargain price starting from US$3,198, covers two adults and one child. It includes roundtrip economy class airfare, hotel accommodation for three nights, roundtrip airport shuttle transfers, an energy-packed daily breakfast before you go on your two choices of full-day tours that are guaranteed to give you a splendid glimpse of the beauty and diversity of Australia plus half-day city sights

Swinging Sydney has a variety of sightseeing tours to pick from. Enjoy the great outdoors for one whole day at the breathtaking Blue Mountain and at the awesome Australian Wildlife Park. Or for a truly unique Aussie experience, visit the historic Gledswood Farm which dates back to the year 1810 and see dogs work on a flock of sheep a stockman shearing sheep spectacular colonial gardens and delight in some wine-tasting before a real sumptuous Barbecue Lunch. Or check out the famous Sydney Harbor, which is still the best way to see Sydney, via the Captain Cook Luncheon Cruise – get a stunning view of the Harbour Bridge and the bustling al fresco cafes and outdoor pubs. Or catch the best in entertainment, shopping and dining at the city and at the FOX Studios where you can experience what it is like in the movie world

The Gold Coast Package gives you the chance of swimming with dolphins and sharks in SeaWorld, feeling like a movie star in Movie World or for more fun than you'll ever have, you can visit Dreamworld's 12 themed worlds that will amuse and amaze you

While in Melbourne, relive the history and excitement of Victoria's goldrush days at Sovereign Hill. The place is alive with miners panning for real gold. Main Street bustles with characters dressed in costume of the period. And you can take a ride through the streets in a horse-drawn carriage! There are shops, hotels, schools, a theatre, crafts, steam-driven machinery, working plant and an underground mine, all known to have existed in Ballarat during the 1850s. The Great Ocean Road, on the other hand, features everything from beautiful surf beaches, serene bays and inlets to rugged cliffs, huge rocky outcrops and lush rainforest

For those who love the feel of sand in their toes and riding the waves, Gold Coast / Brisbane is the place to be. The Sunshine Coast offers miles and miles of beachfront where you can frolic under the heat of the Australian sun. For those who love the outdoors, Mt Tambonne, Springbrook, Tropical Fruitworld and Paradise Country gives you breathtaking views of waterfalls, rainforests and an extensive range of native plants growing side by side with exotic fruit and flowering trees. Then there is the famous SeaWorld, MovieWorld or Dreamworld's 12 themed parks, all of which will surely amaze and amuse the family

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Francisco asks BOI to hold new talks with Mazda

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FRANCISCO Motors Corp. has asked the Board of Investments to hold a new round of arbitration talks with the Mazda Motor Co. in a last-ditch attempt by the Filipino vehicle maker and assembler to get compensation for pushing the Japanese brand over the last 25 years.

Francisco Motors senior assistant vice president Roland C. Francisco was confident that the BOI would reconsider its previous ruling that allowed Ford to continue selling its Ranger pick-up over the objections of the local company.

Francisco said the ruling was unfair since Ford, which owns part of Mazda, introduced a Ranger pick-up model in 1998 before Francisco was able to distribute the B-series pickups up to 2000 as agreed upon in their assembly contract.

Francisco Motors accused Mazda of having intentionally delayed the forwarding of the prices of Mazda B-series models that prevented the company from producing these pickups as early July 1999, as stated in their agreement.

Francisco claimed that the delay adversely affected its operations and led to the lay-off of some of its employees.

Mazda, on the other hand, said the delay was not deliberate but was caused by Mazda's decision to undertake a feasibility study to consider factors such as the Asian financial crisis.

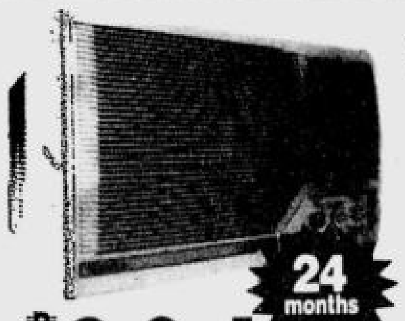
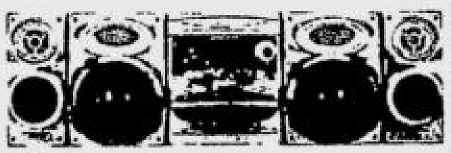
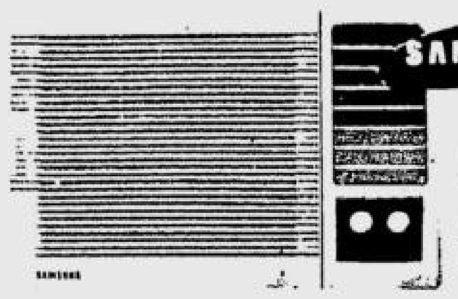
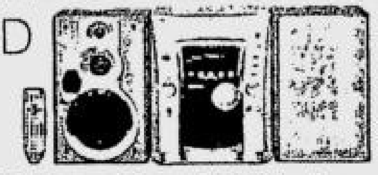
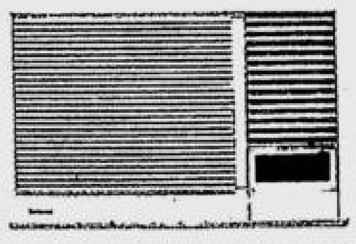
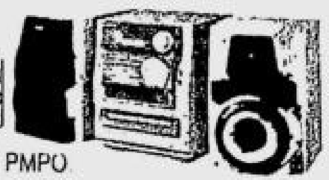
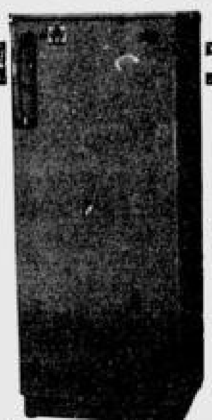
Francisco Motors has asked Mazda for up to $66 million in compensation following the alleged breach of contract.

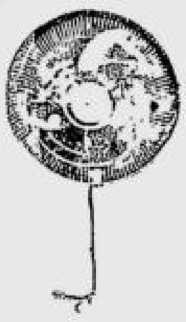
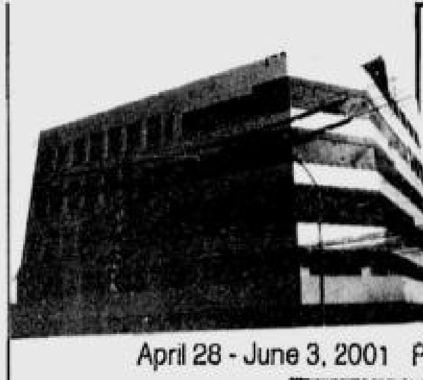
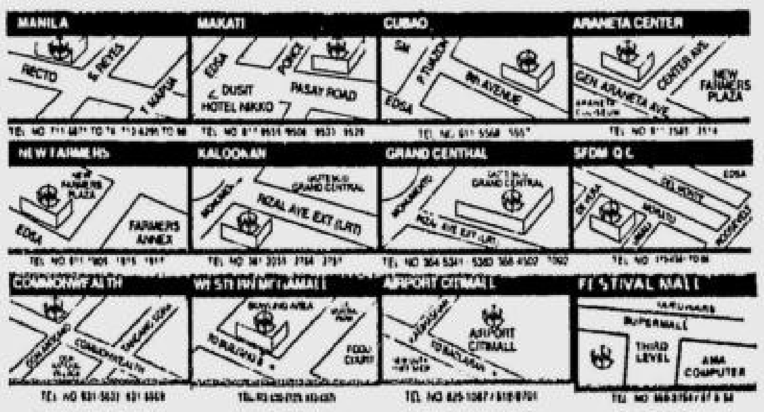
Francisco questioned why Mazda was offering only $4 million when it paid $10 million to Jose Ch. Alvarez who held the distribution rights to the Mazda sedans in the country in the last 10 years.

Ford introduced the Ford Lynx (which has the same platform as the Mazda sedans) shortly after the Ranger was introduced.

Francisco claimed that the Ranger and B-series have the same body specifications, transmission, engine and chassis and they differ only in accessories.

SUMMER HITS @ 36

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Thursday, May 3, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	29,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	79	79	77	78	866,200
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	720
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	44	44	43	43	4,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	214	212	213	42,950
Philippine National Bank	44	44	44	44	5,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1260	1260	1255	1260	5,500
Sun Life Financial Serv.	970	975	970	975	1,780
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39	39.5	39	39.5	20,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	8,230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	695	670	695	4,890
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	50,000
Piltel	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	30,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	705	705	700	700	46,180
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.041	0.042	62,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	42.5	42	42	55,600
Manila Electric Co. B	53	54	52.5	53	1,220,900
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	2,467,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.24	2,039,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	160,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	1,410,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	60,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.14	1.04	1.14	2,487,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14	13.25	13.25	106,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30	30	29.5	30	203,100
RFM Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.96	0.98	2,184,000
San Miguel Corp. A	45	45.5	45	45.5	4,200
San Miguel Corp. B	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	158,200
Universal Robina Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	538,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	14,340,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.5	1,130,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	125,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	180,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.42	2,475,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	2,240,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	10,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	50,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23.25	23.25	23	23	220,900
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	150,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	9,354,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.76	2,700,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.5	2.5	43,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	280,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.51	0.53	2,130,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	20,000
Music Corp.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	360,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	20,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14.75	13.75	14.5	523,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	530,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	1,300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	38.5	39.5	38.5	39.5	702,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	470	470	470	470	700
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	2,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	2,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	1,947,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	380,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	240,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.08	2.08	2.04	2.06	2,654,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7	6.9	7	6,795,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.095	0.095	2,100,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	4,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	1,200,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	3,700,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,056,550	86,771,300.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	136,686,270	224,656,795.00
PRO	14,526,000	64,423,800.00
Mining	10,200,000	77,900.00
OIL	5,900,000	81,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	168,368,820	376,011,195.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	610.93	DOWN 5.28
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,947.50	DOWN 4.21
PRO	571.83	DOWN 0.51
Mining	1,156.35	DOWN 4.46
OIL	1.46	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	739.89	UP 1.48
Composite	1,430.39	DOWN 5.49

NO. OF ADVANCES: 20; NO. OF DECLINES: 32; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87; NO. OF TRADES: 1,505

CURRENCIES

May 3, 2000

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.119194	1.000000	51.0010
Japan	Yen	0.009204	0.008224	0.4194
United Kingdom	Pound	1.604701	1.433800	73.1252
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143500	0.128217	6.5392
Switzerland	Franc	0.647794	0.578804	29.5196
Canada	Dollar	0.730783	0.652955	33.3014
Singapore	Dollar	0.616126	0.550509	28.0765
Australia	Dollar	0.583887	0.521703	26.6074
Bahrain	Dinar	2.968843	2.652661	135.2884
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298444	0.266660	13.5999
Brunei	Dollar	0.615957	0.550358	28.0688
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000090	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.024609	0.021988	1.1214
UAE	Dirham	0.304750	0.272294	13.8873
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000767	0.0391
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893500	45.5694
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456839	23.2992
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136213	6.9470
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.405453	20.6785
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064933	3.3116
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022149	1.1296
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000461	0.0235
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150276	7.6642
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004457	0.2273
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.00537	0.2739
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022149	1.1296
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.134511	57.8612

La Tondeña seen considering acquisition of Tanduay Holdings

By Doris C. Dumlao

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc., the hard liquor unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., is considering the acquisition of dominant rum maker Tanduay Holdings Inc. which is owned by tobacco magnate Lucio Tan.

Should the acquisition push through, the consolidation is seen by analysts as a merger of equals and will result in an entity that will become the undisputed giant in the local distilled spirits sector, combining both company's dominant market share in the gin and rum businesses.

Asked about the views of some brokerage houses that Tanduay might be too big for LTDI to digest, LTDI president Enrique Gomez Jr. confirmed that the Tanduay acquisition was one of the possibilities.

LTDI is currently scouting for acquisition opportunities as well as other new ventures to compensate for the big chunk of business which will be lost with the looming spin-off of its fast growing non-liquor businesses.

In a separate interview during the Tanduay stockholders' meeting last Wednesday, Tanduay president Wilson Young said that while the company was not on the auction block, any offer in the future would be considered.

"In a global economy, everything is for sale but we have not received formal offers from them. If they'll make an offer, then we'll study it,'' Young said, noting that the shareholders of Tanduay might consider the sale of Tanduay "if the price is right."

Asked whether there were ongoing talks with the Tan group, Gomez said: "Right now I cannot confirm anything but it's obviously in the area of related business.''

Tanduay has a market capitalization of more than P18 billion and total assets of P4.7 billion as of end-2000. LTDI had total assets of P15.5 billion during the same period but this has yet to consider the transfer of its non-liquor businesses to Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc.

LTDI has not been successful in edging out Tanduay's dominant position in the southern Philippines despite its aggressive marketing for Añejo Rum, Tanduay Manila Rum and San Miguel Bravo Rum. Its gin brand Vino Kulafu and San Miguel Bravo Rum were launched to penetrate Visayas and Mindanao. In Luzon, however, its Ginebra San Miguel already enjoys a 70-percent market share.

Young admitted that Tanduay, for its part, has long wanted to embark on the gin business, a venture which the company would still like to pursue over the long term.

A foreign broker said it was not far-fetched that Tan, who is now reeling from the financial problems of Philippine National Bank and Philippine Airlines, will sell Tanduay to raise some cash.

But Young noted that it would take a very good offer to convince Tan, whose Asia Brewery Inc. also competes with SMC's beer group, to give up Tanduay, specially since it is a very profitable company. In 2000, Tanduay chalked up a net profit of P512.66 million, up from P302.77 million the previous year.

LTDI, for its part, booked a net income of P1.35 billion last year, up from P1.01 billion in 1998.

Meanwhile, Young said Tanduay was not planning any expansion this year. He said the company would instead hold on to some P500 million in cash hoard, which could be used for other opportunities in the future. He said Tanduay was itself open to acquiring other businesses related to its core activities if there was a good opportunity to do so.

"We'd like to be conservative and concentrate on our core business," he said.

He also noted that there was still a lot of room to improve Tanduay's market share even within its already dominant rum business, such as by introducing other innovative new products.

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Gov't eyes control of PNB as privatization dims

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is studying anew the possibility of regaining control of Philippine National Bank given rising doubts that it could successfully dispose of its remaining 16-percent stake in the ailing bank through a joint sale with taipan Lucio Tan.

Sources said the DOF is studying the legal and financial implications of a "re-nationalization" of PNB given the directives of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund for the government to fully divest from the institution.

Yesterday, PNB reported a net loss of P5.97 billion for 2000, or almost 500 percent more than an earlier estimate of only P1 billion in losses. PNB pointed out, however, that last year's losses were 57 percent less than the previous year's P13.85 billion.

The bank even revised its 1999 net loss from an earlier reported figure of P9.87 billion, based on the SGV & Co. audit.

"I don't think the plan for a joint sale is still going to fly at this stage. The bank is saddled with huge losses and though it is lower than last year, it is not comforting to the market."

"NPLs also continue to rise and the possibility of getting a good price for a joint sale is getting dimmer," a government source said.

The government's basis for a "re-nationalization" of PNB is the P25-billion loan exposure of two state institutions in the bank, an amount that is more than double the equity that Lucio Tan pumped into the bank last September.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. extended P15 billion and P10 billion, respectively, to PNB last September to ease the bank's liquidity problems.

A bank analyst said converting these debts into equity in PNB and re-claiming the stake that the government had lost appeared to be a better alternative at this point.

PDIC president Norberto Nazareno, who heads an inter-agency team created by outgoing Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo to study the PNB divestment, noted that a joint sale with Lucio Tan's 67-percent stake remained the intention of the government.

"I have not heard the government nor Tan say that they have dumped the joint sale. Also, the incoming finance secretary may want to review again the plans," the PDIC chief said.

Malacañang had announced that Romulo would soon be appointed to replace Renato de Villa as executive secretary. Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II is being eyed to replace Romulo.

Nazareno said PNB's third-party auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers has not yet completed its due diligence on the bank. He said Pricewaterhouse had agreed to wait for the SGV audit to complete its study.

BSP chief denies pressure to name Vistan to Equitable

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday categorically denied that he had pressured the Go family to support the appointment of former Solidbank Corp. president Deogracias Vistan as president and chief executive of Equitable PCI Bank.

Equitable chair Antonio Go also denied Tuesday evening that he received any pressure from Buenaventura.

In a briefing with reporters following an over three-hour special board meeting to tackle the issue of bank management, Go said: "There was no pressure from central bank whatsoever."

In a press conference after walking out on the special board meeting Tuesday, Government Service Insurance System president and Equitable director Winston Garcia demanded that Buenaventura explain his "unethical" behavior in interfering in the internal management of Equitable.

Garcia disclosed that Equitable acting president and chief executive Edilberto Javier testified to the board that Go admitted that Buenaventura pressured the bank chair to push for Vistan's appointment.

Javier's statement was corroborated by Equitable executive vice president and treasurer Romualdo Dy Tang. Both Javier and Dy Tang resigned that day from their posts in the bank effective June 1.

Buenaventura said last Thursday the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the BSP, made it clear to Equitable acting president and chief executive Edilberto Javier that he or Vistan was acceptable to head the bank.

"Problem is he (Javier) was not acceptable to some of the shareholders," Buenaventura noted.

Go said that the bank decided to appoint Vistan because "we have to move forward."

"Our acting president has resigned and that doesn't leave much choice for us. If he has not resigned then we would have more time to think who should be leading this bank forward," he said.

However, asked whether he ever told Javier he was choosing Vistan over him because of alleged pressure from Buenaventura, Go replied, "I don't recall."

Go admitted that "not in so many words" he had actually committed to support Javier's appointment.

Despite Go's denial, Javier stuck to his statement that Go had admitted that Vistan's appointment was a result of alleged pressure from the BSP governor.

Javier also disclosed that on the morning of Tuesday, Equitable chair emeritus Peter Go Pailan disclosed that the Go family was supporting Vistan's appointment later that day because of pressure from "government."

Equitable's offer to Vistan covered a four-year contract with a compensation package of P800,000 a month.

Buenaventura also denied Garcia's claim that the BSP governor "scared" away a local potential investor and existing stockholder of Equitable from investing P5 billion in the bank during a breakfast meeting at Manila Polo Club a month ago.

Garcia declined to identify the potential investor but he seemed to have been referring to Equitable director Ricardo Leong, whose Sycamore Ventures submitted a proposal to invest in the bank.

Buenaventura said that in a meeting with Leong together with Social Security System chair Vitaliano Nañagas II, he actually encouraged Leong to invest in the bank.

However, the shareholders of Equitable, through the directors, rejected the offer of Sycamore along with three other proposals.

It was Garcia's problem that he failed to convince the other shareholders to accept the proposal and he should not blame the BSP, Bucanaventura said.

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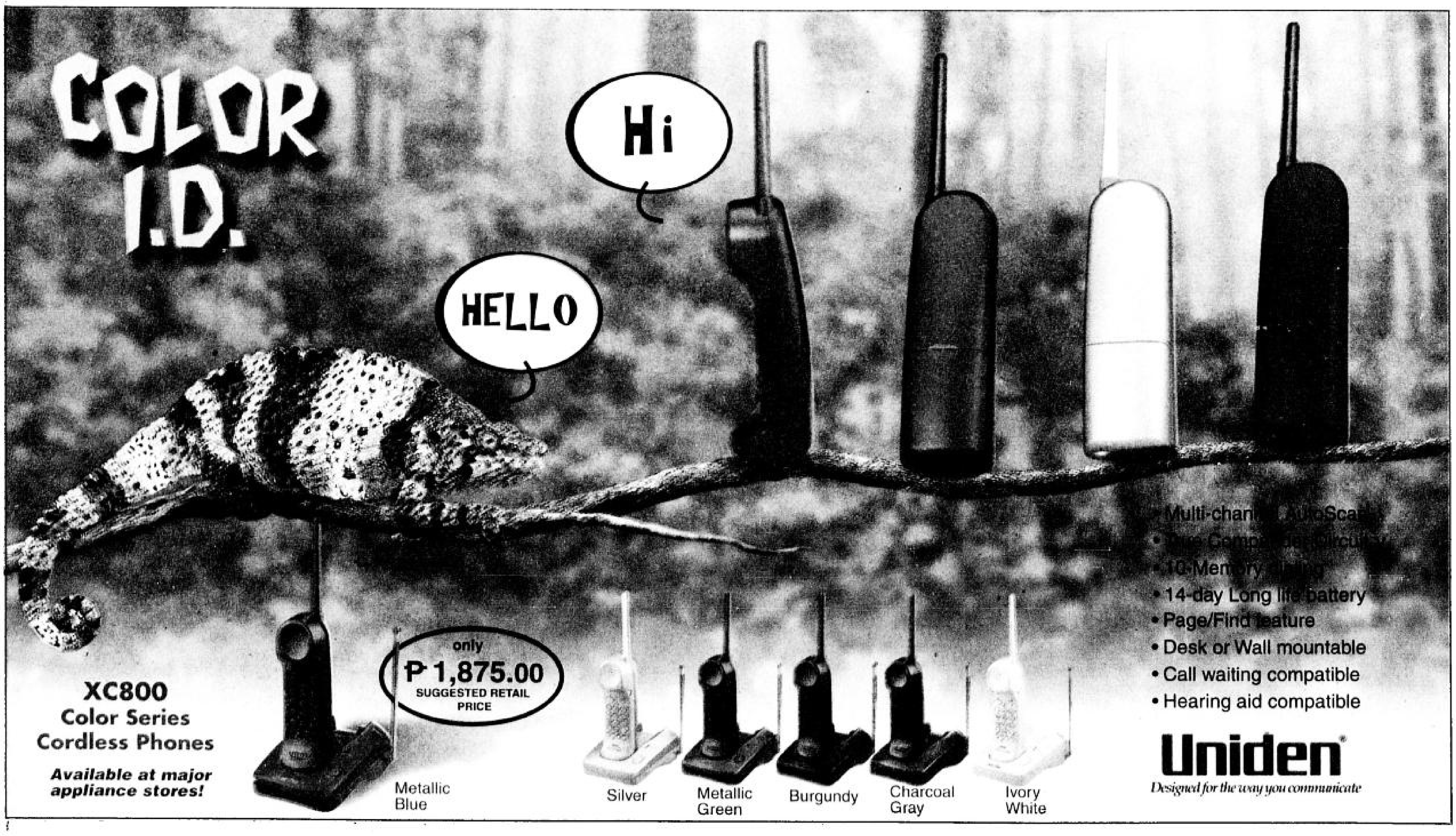

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PCGG resolution derails gov't efforts to regain SMC

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT'S efforts to wrestle control of San Miguel Corp. from businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. suffered a major setback yesterday after it discovered the sequestration of the 27-percent stake of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund was lifted by the Presidential Commission on Good Government under then President Joseph Estrada.

A government lawyer said this revelation had placed the government in a quandary since Cojuangco could use the shares to fill up five seats on San Miguel's 15-man board with his nominees.

The government has been voting the 27-percent stake since 1986. Cojuangco has only been voting the remaining sequestered San Miguel shares—representing 21 percent of the company—since the 1990s based on a Supreme Court ruling.

The Macapagal administration is fighting to install a new set of PCGG nominees on San Miguel's board to prevent the dissipation of the company's assets while the ownership of these shares are being questioned.

The government's current representatives to San Miguel's board are Estrada brother-in-law Raul de Guzman, a UP professor and member of the UP Board of Regents; Alan Lee, owner of Kessel Ventures; lawyer and film producer Espiridion Laxa; Benjamin Paulino, co-founder of the Philippine School of Business Administration; and, Hermogenes Tantoco, spouse of former First Lady Loi Ejercito's chief of staff.

The Macapagal administration wants these people kicked out of San Miguel and replaced with its own nominees: former Social Security System administrator Renato Valencia, former Far East Bank and Trust Co. president Octavio Espiritu, former Justice Hector Hofilena, retired Major General Leo Alvez, and Franklin Fuentebella.

The administration's efforts to regain control of San Miguel, however, has hit a roadblock.

In a resolution issued on Nov. 28 last year, the PCGG lifted the sequestration of the CIIF's 27-percent stake in San Miguel on the strength of an executive order issued by Estrada.

PCGG chair Magdangal Elma, Alexander Gesmundo, Jorge Sarmiento, Antonio Rosales and Antonio Merelos signed the resolution

Estrada signed Executive Order 313 last year to create the Coconut Trust Fund to finance development programs for coconut farmers, the coconut industry and other agri-related programs aimed at maximizing food productivity, create business opportunities in the countryside, provide livelihood alternatives to coconut farmers, and promote anti-poverty programs.

The executive order, however, was criticized as part of a compromise deal hatched by Estrada wherein Cojuangco was allowed to keep his 20-percent stake in San Miguel while the government would have the remaining 27 percent on the auction block under the management of a Trust Fund Committee. The 27 percent reportedly purchased using the CIIF was worth over P31 billion.

A person familiar with the matter said the Macapagal administration was caught flat-footed by this development.

The source said the government would question the PCGG's decision to lift the sequestration of the CIIF shares in San Miguel on the ground that E0 313 had already been revoked, and that Sandiganbayan had yet to decide on the ownership of the CIIF assets.

Cojuangco . . .

(From page B1)

forts to gain control of San Miguel, seeking proxy votes from stockholders to replace eight current board members appointed by deposed President Estrada.

It has also indicated it would like to remove current chairman Cojuangco from his post.

San Miguel had said the new government of President Macapagal-Arroyo could not appoint its nominees to the board because the firm closed official nominations last Jan. 20. Ms Macapagal took over after a "people power" revolt toppled Estrada after that.

GSIS said last month the government wants to gain control of the San Miguel board to protect the interests of the country's two state pension funds, minority shareholders and small coconut farmers who are the beneficial stockholders of San Miguel shares entrusted with the government.

In 1986, the government of then President Corazon Aquino sequestered 47 percent of San Miguel shares, including a 20-percent block Cojuangco is claiming as his own personal investment.

The government alleges the 47-percent block was amassed using money collected from small coconut farmers.

Cojuangco regained control of San Miguel in 1998 when the Supreme Court granted him voting rights over his contested stake, although ownership of the 20-percent block he is claiming is still subject of a court battle.

San Miguel also said yesterday that it estimated its net income in the first three months of the year at P1.67 billion. The firm did not give comparative figures but it reported a net income of P1.54 billion on operating income of P1.81 billion in the same period last year.

"Revenue improved by 21 percent to P24.1 billion while operating income of P2.38 billion for the first quarter was 31 percent higher than 2000," Cojuangco told a news conference.

Consolidated net income of P1.67 billion would have been much higher than 8 percent if not for the significant increases in financing charges, he said.

He added that first-quarter revenues rose 21 percent.

"Judging by these preliminary results, we are on track to maintain our record of continued growth in 2001 and beyond," Cojuangco said.

Cojuangco also said that it would cost around P7 billion to acquire majority control of food manufacturer Pure Foods Corp.

San Miguel is doing due diligence on Pure Foods books with the aim of acquiring the 93.26-percent stake of Ayala Corp. in the processed foods firm.

A memorandum of understanding had been signed between the two groups, giving San Miguel the exclusive right to negotiate the purchase of the Ayala stake and the deal is expected to be completed in the second quarter this year. *With a report from Reuters*

Globe inks $20-M cell phone deal

By Anthony O. Alcantara

GLOBE Telecom has signed $20-million contract with Lightscape Networks, a member of the ECI Telecom Group of Israel, for the supply of transmission equipment for its cellular phone network.

The contract involves the installation of Lightscape's XDM Optical Solution that would optimize the use of Globe's fiber optic system and enable millions of simultaneous calls over a single strand of glass fiber.

Globe president Gerardo C. Ablaza Jr. said in a statement that this would give Globe the ability to respond to the increasing demand for capacity as the race for leadership in the cellular phone industry moves on.

As of end-March 2001, Globe has reported 2.92 million subscribers.

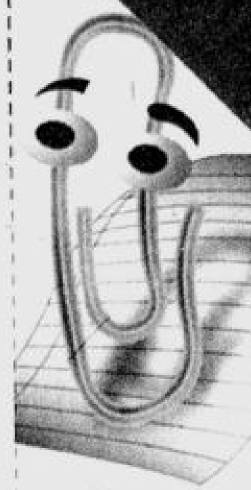
"It is very difficult to project subscriber growth. That is why flexibility is important especially for a large network. Our competitive advantage rests on the network's transmission component," Ablaza said.

With the new contract, Globe's total investment in Lightscape equipment has reached more than $40 million.

The new equipment will allow calls to be transferred from one switching area to the next by transmitting signals between Globe's mobile switches to the cell site controller access networks.

"Globe Telecom has experienced a rapid growth rate over the past few years, rising from a niche market player in the Philippine wireless industry to become the leader in digital wireless services in the country," Ablaza said.

Eran Dariel, president of Lightscape Networks, said Globe has joined a number of foreign cellular operators that have selected the XDM optical platform.



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1. On **Tools: Options**, click **File Locations**
2. In **File Types** list, click **Documents**
3. Click **Modify**
- To select an **Existing Folder**, locate and click the folder in the folder list.
To create and select a **New Folder**, click **Create New Folder**, then name it in the **Name** box.

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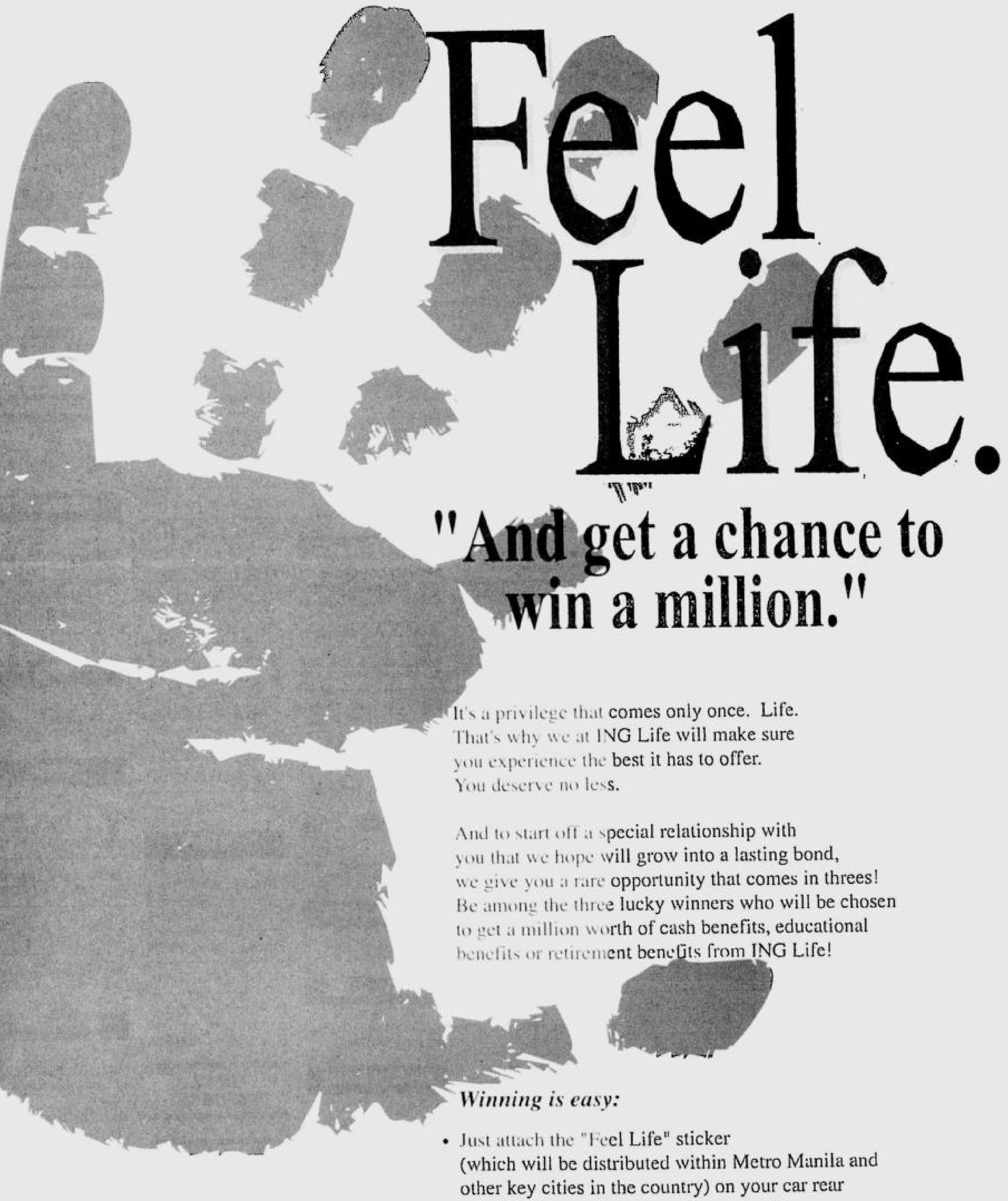

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC. with office address at 12/F, Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended for New IT Service Firm in the Field of IT-Enabled Services (SMART Payment Infrastructure) at a capacity of 7.0 million accounts/cards per year and with proposed project site at 3rd Floor, Smart LEC Building, Filipinas Avenue, United Parañaque Subdivision 5, Parañaque City has been officially accepted on April 26, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date issued this 26th of April 2001 of this publication.

(Sgd.) C.O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI – May 4, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

GOLDEN PAWNSHOP, INC. 2000 C.R. Magsaysay Ave. Guadalupe Makati City & 29 Unit 6, Dona Eglantine Mansion, Sierra Madre St, Mandaluyong City. On May 13, 2001 at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. respectively be sold at public auction at the above address all unredeemed articles pledged during the months of Oct. 2000 & Nov., 2000 whose terms have been expired. (Juan Lanuza & Sons-Licensed Auctioneer)

MARA PAWNSHOP Branch of 2202 M. Roxas corner Pedro Gil St., Sta. Ana Manila. Auction Sale on May 9, 2001, Wed. at 2:30 in the afternoon respectively, Dec. 12-Jan. 9, 2001. *Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.*

MARA PAWNSHOP I, II, III, IV and Comembo Branch of Makati City. Auction Sale on May 9, 2001, Wed. at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively. Dec. 12-Jan. 9, 2001. *Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.*

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque, M.M. Auction Sale on May 9, 2001, Wed. at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, Dec. 12, 2001. *Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.*

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting contractors who have completed similar contracts (at least 50% of the similar contract cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to Pre-Qualify & Bid for the contract listed below:

	Bid Package	Scope of works	Est. Project Cost
1.	Construction of Ugong Norte Phase I (3 Five-Storey Bldgs.) MRH Project, Bo. Ugong, Libis Murphy, Q.C.	Building Construction	P56.0M

	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
1.	AAA	Large B for Buildings

A. Pre-C forms, Bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of the following:
1.) Letter of Intent; 2.) PCA/AIC License with Official Receipt; 3.) Certificate of Completion/ Acceptance & Contract Agreement of similar project; and 4.) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.
B. Payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per contract shall be received only from authorized representative.
C. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, Manager's or Cashier's check.
D. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on **May 16, 2001.** All other subsequent activities will be announced through a Bid Bulletin.
E. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, waive formally of any defect thereon, and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN**
General Manager

(PDI – May 2, 4 & 7, 2001)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2001-24

Bidding Date : May 22, 2001 - 10:00 a.m.

2001-24-01	ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS (Integrated Circuit, Translator, Diode, Rectifier, etc.)
2001-24-02	MOTOR, Submersible for Deepwell, 25 HP, 230 volts, three phase, 60 Hz-3450 RPM/PUMP, Centrifugal for Water Filter of Swimming Pool, 1.5 HP, 230 v, 60 Hz 83 GPM, Size: 1 1/2" x 1 1/2, single phase
2001-24-03	ENGINE ASSEMBLY, Surplus, 4D56, 4 cylinder
2001-24-04	REGULATOR, Nitrous Oxide for Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer PN BS 303-0349
2001-24-05	COMPUTER, Notebook/COMPUTER PRIPHRALS (Hard Disk, etc.)
2001-24-06	SERVICES: Repair of Laptop Computer
2001-24-07	PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES (Blank Tape, Album, Fluim, Battery Pack)
2001-24-08	PAPER, Refractory, Size: 3.175 mm x 1,000 mm x 1000 mm
2001-24-09	PREVENTIVE/CORRECTIVE MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES (Penetrating Oil, Contact/Waterless Cleaner, Electrical Tape/Battery, Adhesive, Automotive Wire, etc.)
2001-24-10	SERVICES: One Year Supply of Labor, Tools, & Equipment for the Preventive Maintenance of 1 Unit Inductotherm VIP-Power Tak R Series with Two Furnaces
2001-24-11	SERVICES: Job Order for Gear Cutting of Internal Gear - 14 Teeth

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC. Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00. submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms to participate in this bidding is on May 11, 2001.

Bidding documents available on May 4, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable. presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of issuance of bidding documents May 17, 2001.

Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - May 3 & 4, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cool idea

Q. Who invented the air conditioner?

A. In the summer of 1902, a printing company in Brooklyn, New York, was beset by distorted color printing because the hot, humid weather was causing the paper in the presses to change size. The task of finding a solution was taken up by Willis H. Carrier, a young engineer, who found that air retained less moisture at lower temperature. He designed a machine that blew air over chilled pipes and stabilized the amount of moisture. The printing improved, and Carrier's idea became the basis of the home air conditioner.

A Friendly Reminder. When life first evolved on Earth more than 3.5 billion years ago, there was no oxygen in the air, but lots of carbon dioxide, hydrogen, ammonia, and methane. The oxygen now present is the product of photosynthesis by plants, algae, and bacteria that have lived since that time and are alive today. Destroy all the forests of the world, and life as we know it will cease to exist.

Ooops! The earth is not really round—it's actually an oblate spheroid, which means it is slightly flattened at the poles and bulges at the equator. The polar diameter of the earth is about 42 kilometers (26 miles) less than is the equatorial diameter. As a result, the equator is about 21 kilometers (13 miles) farther from the center of the earth than are the North and South Poles.

WORD WATCH

Hangin : from the Malay *angin*, 'to blow.'

PDI – May 4, 2001

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SECOND INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and with extensive experience in the supply and installation of Shower Enclosures and Lighting Fixtures for office buildings are invited to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the following Contract Packages for the new LBP HQ Building in Ermita, Manila, with the following schedule.

Project Title	Estimated Cost	Issuance of Pre-C	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Contract Package No. 25 Supply and Installation of Shower Enclosure	Php 5.5 Million	May 7 to 9, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	May 24, 2001	May 25, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	May 29, 2001 9:00 A.M.	June 14, 2001 9:00 A.M.
Contract Package No. 33 Supply and Installation of Elevator Lobby Lighting, Teller Counter Lighting and Wall Scounge Lighting Fixtures	Php .9 Million	May 7 to 9, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	May 24, 2001	May 25, 2001 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	May 29, 2001 11:00 A.M.	June 14, 2001 11:00 A.M.

All interested suppliers/installers may obtain Pre-C application forms from the **Project Management Engineering Department (PMED)**, 2F LBP Bldg. 3, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of **P1,000.00**

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Statement (Pre-C) shall be submitted to the above-stated office not later than **5:00 PM, May 16, 2001**, after which no Pre-C will be accepted. All participating suppliers/installers shall be notified in writing of their pre-qualification/or pre-disqualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers/installers may secure Bid Documents at the **PMED Office** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P 1,000.00.**

Pre-bid conference will be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2nd Flr., LBP Building 3, 319 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Bidding shall be conducted at the same venue as the Pre-bid conference using the two (2) sealed envelopes system (envelopes "A & B") to be submitted at the said date and time, after which no envelopes will be received.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission of bids and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) GILDA E. PICO
Chairman
LBP Sub-Committee on the LBP HQ Plaza

(PDI--May 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

LOURDES R. ALDAMIA,
Petitioner
- versus -
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
LUGA LUMBER DEVELOPMENT CO.
and JOSE MACAIBAY,
Respondents,
x---x

SSC CASE NO. 10597

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION ENTERED

TO: THE PRESIDENT
LUGA LUMBER DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

MR. JOSE MACAIBAY

GREETINGS:

Notice is heregy given that on the 4th day of April, 2001, a RESOLUTION, consisting of 19 pages, was entered in the above-mentioned case, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

> "WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, this Commission finds, and so holds, that the late Ambrosio Aldamia was an employee of Luga Lumber Dev't. Co. and Jose Macaibay from April 1965 to September 1972.
>
> Accordingly, respondents Luga Lumber Dev't Co. and Jose Macaibay are hereby ordered to pay the SSS, within sixty (60) days from receipt hereof, the amount of P1,076.40, representing the unpaid SS contributions in favor of the deceased Ambrosio Aldamia and the amount of P13,329.22 as 3% per month penalty for late payment thereof computed as of February 5, 2001 without prejudice to the right of the SSS to collect additional penalty liability that have accrued thereafter.
>
> Should the respondents pay their liability for unpaid SS contributions within the aforestated period, the 3% penalty is deemed condoned pursuant to SSC Resolution No. 397-S.97, as amended by SSC Resolution Nos. 112-S.98 and 982-S.99 implementing the condonation of penalty under R.A. No. 8282 (The Social Security Act of 1997).
>
> The SSS, on the other hand, is ordered to pay herein petitioner and her daughter Sherlita R. Aldamia, who was still a minor at the time of Ambrosio Aldamia's death on July 9, 1982, in their capacity as primary beneficiaries of the deceased member, the appropriate death benefits, subject to its existing rules and regulations.
>
> SO ORDERED."

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI--May 4, 2001)

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Happy Mother's Day Nanay Thank you for everything. I love you. Rose

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God's love never fails!

He guided well the return
of our dear

Nanay Basilisa Roque Bautista

to join JESUS forever
in His Kingdom.
She left in peace and joy on
Wednesday, May 02, 2001
at 1:20 p.m. on the
Diamond Jubilee
of Our Lady of Manaoag
We, her loving family give
praises to God for her 88 years!

Thank you Lord!

** Aida Francisco, Anni/Roy Ramos **
** Tita and Rodel Puhawan, Rossmir and Vicky, Ronald **
** Del B. Vitangcol, York/Mildred, Jude/Gee, Jonathan/Nancy, Jake/Mausy, Jason/Julie **
** Ernesto and Bessie Bautista, Allison and Ian **
** Melanio and Edna Bautista, Allisa, Nina and Francine **
** Diosdado and Mely Bautista, Jannette and Jeff **
** Emmanuel and Marimel Bautista, Francis, Mel Emmie, Mel Lisa and Joseph **
** Orlando and Marilu Bautista, Francesca, Lorenzo and Alliana **

** Lying in state at #7 Panay Avenue, Q.C. * Daily MASS @ 8p.m.*
** Interment shall be on May 08, 2 p.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park after the 3 p.m. MASS.*

Evelina Jalandoni vda. de Teves

May 3, 1920 - May 1, 2001

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 1, 2001
after receiving the Last Sacrament to be reunited with her husband
Senator Lorenzo G. Teves (†)

Her children **Louie, Don** and **Dada, Bing** and **Tata, Francy** and **Ding, Pascual, Mercy** and **Ned Goñi** (†), **Celia, Betsy** and **Mighty David, Ady** and **Jean**; grandchildren **Shireen, Tanya** and **Donald, Mardee** and **Chum, Margot, Don-Don, Tiffy, Ten-Ten, Miko, Vince, Jed, Eva** and **Nico, Luigi, Andoni, Gisela, Ian, Cid,** and **Nigil**; great grandchildren **Aris, A.K., Justin, Cheska** and **Nedine**; sister and brothers **Teresing Cuenca, Oso** (†), **Nonoy** (†); brothers- and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 5, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Immaculate Conception Church, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary
and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

ANTONIO A. GLORIA

of Calauan, Laguna and San Pedro, Laguna

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 30, 2001 at the age of 71

His loving wife **Dionisia**; sisters **Rosenda, Isabel** (†) and **Leonora** (†); brothers **Uderico** and **Gregorio** (†); brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 13 San Vicente St., corner Carillo St. San Pedro, Laguna.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 6, 2001 at San Pedro Memorial Park after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at San Pedro Apostol Parish Church.

"...absent
with the body
to be present
with the
Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

JOSE "McCOY" A. GAYOSO

July 15, 1923 - May 1, 2001

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 1, 2001
At Arrowhead Regional Hospital, Colton, CA.

His loving wife, **THELMA QUEIPO**; and his children **ROSEANNE & ERNESTO CALVENTO, RACQUEL & OSCAR MAGLASANG, MARISSA & ROY TORRECAMPO, RANDY & CHRISTINE**; his grandchildren: **Katrina & Margarita Maglasang; Gio, Miko & Gabriel Calvento; Robbie & Ryan Torrecampo**; his great grandson, **Alec**, his brothers, sisters and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will take place on May 5, 2001
Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth, California, USA

Message of Thanks

from the family of the late

MAYOR ERNESTO GUAT GO

who joined his Creator on April 22, 2001 wish to express our sincere gratitude and deep appreciation to all our relatives, friends, public officials, townmates and benefactors who, after his passing away, kept vigil with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, donations participated in the necrological services offered for his eternal rest, visited and kept vigil, joined us at the funeral rites and gave us the support of their sympathy and caring in so many ways during our moment of grief.

While we renew our thanks, we ask them to continue remembering him in prayerful love and with Christian hope and faith.

Thank you very much.

In Loving Memory of

ANA MARIA VAZQUEZ CATALA

on her Third Anniversary
with our LORD and BLESSED MOTHER
The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered
on May 4 and 5, 6:00 p.m. at the following Churches:
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park
Our Lady of Beautiful Love, Merville Park
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes Village
St. John Bosco, Arnaiz Street, San Lorenzo Village
We ask the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

RAUL CARILLO CRISOLOGO

His bereaved wife Lydia Mamaril **Crisologo**; children **Joy** and **Ian**.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue Pasig City.

Interment will be tomorrow, May 5, 2001 at the Heaven's Gate 1, Cogeo, Antipolo City.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.

2 Cor. 4:14

Our Dearly Beloved Ma Caring

CARIDAD TANDIAMA Vda. de RAVAL

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 2, 2001
at the age of 86.

Her late husband **(Ret.) Brig. Gen. Vicente R. Raval** (†); loving children and in-laws **Rosauro** and **Rebecca, Manuel** and **Oyette, Vicente Jr.** and **Dinah, Antonio** and **Fe, Nestor, Tony** and **Maricar, Jojo** and **Annie**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City.

Interment will be on May 6, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

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Asean seeks new investment as global growth slows down

SIEM REAP, Cambodia—Southeast Asian economic ministers began a two-day meeting here on Thursday to find ways to boost investment in the face of a global economic slowdown.

The 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are worried the entry of China into the World Trade Organization may divert trade away from their economies, still suffering from the Asian crisis of the 1990s.

They hope closer links with China, Japan and Korea, and the development of a regional free-trade area, would help them weather economic turbulence.

"With the current economic slowdown of the US, we are trying to find ways and means to be more attractive to foreign direct investment to Asean," Cambodian Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh told Reuters on Thursday.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said in his opening address that global economic problems would compound difficulties already faced by Asean countries.

"The global outlook for 2001 is becoming significantly more adverse, with the unexpected economic slowdown in the United States, lower growth in Europe and problems in the Japanese economy," he said.

"This is compounded by weakness in the global (information technology) sector, with some Asean economies heavily dependent on the production and exports of electronic goods," he said.

"The task before us is sustaining momentum of growth in our individual countries and the region, thereby securing greater economic stability and resilience, which are crucial for long-term sustainable development."

Officials said one of the biggest challenges in trying to achieve this goal was coming together as a group.

"To promote investment, we need to do more to attract investors to come to Asean as a grouping, not just as separate countries," Cham Prasidh said.

"It is a challenge also that, within Asean, we are competing to attract investors. But if we don't combine our forces together, we would not be able to cope with the current world situation."

Economic ministers from six Asean nations have been joined by their counterparts from China and South Korea in Siem Reap, home of the fabled Angkor temples, for an informal retreat.

Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia have sent deputy officials, as has Japan.

China, South Korea and Japan are part of the so-called Asean-plus-three umbrella, which has been discussing the creation of an East Asian economic community that could eventually lead to a formal regional grouping along the lines of the European Union. *Reuters*

US economy not headed for recession

COSTA MESA, California—The US economy does not appear to be headed for a recession because of the "aggressive" easing by the Federal Reserve and the swift progress manufacturers have made in cutting back excess stock, according to San Francisco Fed president Robert Parry.

Parry said economic growth could recover by the end of the year after first-quarter growth proved faster rate than many economists had expected.

"I really don't have much information about the current quarter, but I doubt—strongly doubt—that we are in a recession," Parry told a business group here.

US gross domestic product posted annual growth of 2 percent in the first quarter, recovering from a weak 1-percent pace in the last three months of 2000.

Parry said the Fed's easing to date, cutting the target for the funds rate by 2 full percentage points to 4.5 percent, stood out "as one of the most aggressive periods for the Fed."

The central bank cannot aim policy solely at the short-term goal of keeping unemployment low because an overly stimulative policy would risk undoing its long-term goal of keeping prices stable, Parry said.

Asked whether those remarks had been meant as a commentary on the current state of the business cycle, Parry said they had not. But he said it was a response to those who had criticized the US central bank for being "insufficiently expansionary" earlier in the slowdown.

"If we stimulated the economy all the time, the gains against employment you would see are temporary and that is at best," Parry told the business group.

Although the overall risks remain tipped toward more economic weakness, the other unexpected, positive development for the US economy has been the speed at which companies have run down inventories, Parry said. *Reuters*

Fed being undermined by financial markets

NEW YORK—What the Federal Reserve gives, the financial markets sometimes take away.

Rising longer-dated US Treasury yields, interpreted by Federal Reserve policymakers and investors as a sign the economy may soon leave its sick bed, may actually be hampering the Fed's task of reviving the economy, some economists say.

The Fed has cut interest rates aggressively this year as it has sought to stave off economic weakness that began last year with a manufacturing downturn before spreading to a precipitous fall in business spending on capital projects.

As the Fed has slashed rates, financial markets have priced in a rising chance that the economy will turn around. This has given stocks a boost, underpinned the dollar and pushed up yields on longer-dated government paper.

But market optimism may impede the Fed's task, economists say, due to the link between longer dated Treasuries and consumer sensitive borrowing rates such as auto loans and mortgage rates. A strong dollar, meanwhile, may slow a manufacturing revival by making exports less competitive.

"The bond market sell-off in over the last few months has mitigated the impact of the Fed's easing moves," said John Youngdahl, a senior money market economist at Goldman Sachs.

"Financial markets have not been helpful, they have tended to work at cross purposes to the Fed," he added.

When the Fed began easing rates in January, financial conditions—as measured by Goldman Sachs Financial Conditions Index—loosened slightly before a falling stock market and higher long-term Treasury yields re-tightened the screws.

The FCI, based on the trade-weighted dollar exchange rate, yields on A-rated corporate bonds, three-month Libor (London Interbank Offered Rate) and the ratio of equity market capitalization to gross domestic product, now stands at 96.53, hardly changed from six months ago when it stood at 96.59.

Long-dated Treasuries tend to underperform short-dated securities ahead of stronger growth as investors' price in the growing risk inflation will accelerate as growth picks up.

As a result, longer-dated yields usually rise ahead of an economic growth surge and shorter-dated yields tend to fall.

Thirty-year bond yields have risen from 5.34 percent at the beginning of 2001 to 5.76 percent while yields on two-year notes have fallen from 5.10 percent to 4.25 percent. *Reuters*

Kraft Foods readies $8.7-B public offering

NEW YORK—Kraft Foods Inc., the maker of Kraft macaroni and cheese, Oscar Mayer hot dogs and Oreos, boosted the price tag on its spin-off from Philip Morris to $8.7 billion on Wednesday, setting the stage for the second-largest new stock offering in US history.

The food giant, based in Northfield Lake, Illinois, said it would offer 280 million shares in an initial public offering at a price range of $26 to $31. The deal could raise between $7.3 billion and $8.7 billion in a year that has so far been one of the slowest for IPOs in a decade as the technology sector has slumped.

When Kraft first failed to go public in March, it said it hoped to raise as much as $5 billion. Even at the low end of the revised price range Kraft would still be the second-largest US IPO, after last year's $10.6-billion AT&T Wireless spin-off.

Credit Suisse First Boston and Salomon Smith Barney will be the joint bookrunners on the Kraft deal, which promises hundreds of millions of dollars in underwriting fees. At a conservative 4-percent commission, the total fee would total more than $300 million.

The IPO should be completed before the end of the second quarter, Kraft said in its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"You can't beat an IPO that has a brand that everybody's been familiar with since they were kids," said Justin Burrows of financial information provider Hoover's Online. "This is a question of lineage—people know the story."

Technology IPOs have been scarce in 2001, but large spin-offs have dominated as cautious investors turn to large established companies rather than unprofitable start-ups.

Energy company Reliant Resources Inc. went public in a billion-dollar deal this week, raising $1.56 billion after several price increases. Reliant Resources is in the process of being spun off from its parent Reliant Energy. Other large spin-offs in 2001 include Lucent Technologies Inc.'s Agere Systems Inc. $3.6-billion IPO, the fifth-largest US offering ever. In February KPMG Consulting raised $2 billion.

"We're doing completely different deals, compared to the speculative nature of IPOs a year ago," Burrows said. "People went public to get start-up capital versus unlocking stockholder value or the value of the company. Which is what Kraft is about."

CSFB and Salomon lead 15 underwriters on the IPO, including Morgan Stanley, JP Morgan, Deutsche Banc Alex. Brown, UBS Warburg, BNP Paribas and Lehman Brothers. *Reuters*

Sun Life to buy Liberty Financial Unit for $1.7B

NEW YORK—Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. agreed Wednesday to acquire Liberty Financial Cos. Inc.'s Keyport Life annuity business for about $1.7 billion, expanding its foothold in the US financial services market, sources said.

The transaction was approved by both companies' boards on Wednesday and was expected to be announced early Thursday morning, sources familiar with the situation told Reuters. The deal would partially complete an auction started by Boston-based Liberty Financial, which first announced plans to sell its operations last November.

Liberty Financial would retain its asset management business, including the Stein Roe & Farnham mutual funds, for the time being, although the company intended to continue exploring its strategic options for that operation, sources said.

Sun Life already has a US life insurance business and owns Boston-based MFS Investment Management, which ranks as the No. 9 mutual fund firm in the United States with $89 billion in assets under management. With the acquisition of Keyport Life, Sun Life will gain nearly 300,000 policyholders and more than $17 billion in assets, giving it an even stronger presence in the US life insurance market.

A Liberty Financial spokesman declined to comment.

Sun Life Financial spokesman John Vincic also declined to comment, saying, "we can't comment on speculation on specific acquisitions that we may be looking at."

The Toronto-based company, Canada's second-largest life insurer, has made no secret of its desire to expand further south in the insurance and wealth management business.

Sun Life chief executive Donald Stewart told investors just last week at the company's annual meeting that the United States was the company's top expansion priority, followed by Asia.

"In the US protection market, we are very interested in acquisition opportunities with strategic fit to existing operations," Stewart said.

Liberty Financial had been in talks to sell its entire operations to either British life insurer Prudential Corp. Plc or US insurers American International Group Inc. and American General Corp. *Reuters*

Honda US to remain an independent firm

DAYTON, Ohio—Honda of America would remain an independent company and use the economic slowdown as a challenge to grow, the company's president said Wednesday.

In a speech to the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Koki Hirashima said there were speculations about how Honda would fit with other automakers and that much had been written about how big a company should be to remain competitive.

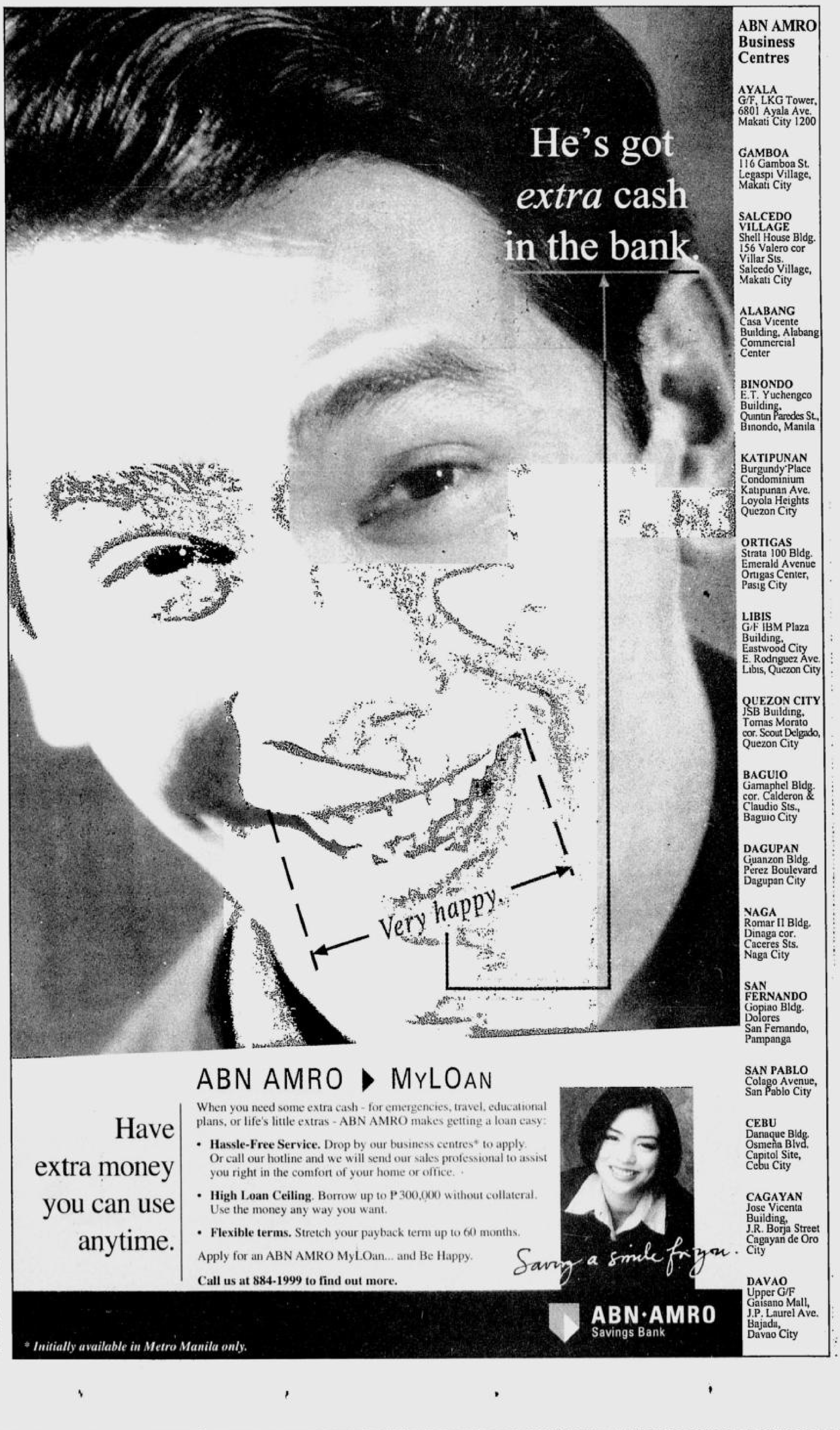
"Honda does intend to remain an independent company," Hirashima said. "To assure this, our goal is to combine the speed, the flexibility and the efficiency of a small company with the elements of a large company—global reach and technological strength."

He said by continuing to improve the company's processes, he was confident Honda could compete as an independent company.

Honda, which operates plants in Marysville, Anna and East Liberty, reported that its US sales declined 3 percent in April.

Hirashima said all of Honda's plants in North America continued to run at full production. He also said he did not see the sales dip as a trend and did not anticipate any layoffs.

"At Honda, we have always known that difficult times present the best opportunities for growth, as long as we stay focused on the customer," he said. *AP*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Quezon City

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cor. Calderon &
Claudio Sts.,
Baguio City

DAGUPAN
Guanzon Bldg.
Perez Boulevard
Dagupan City

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Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

BUSINESS*Friday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Sub-section Editor

Stop spending money on the wrong clients

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

EXECUTIVES and employees working in the retail industry feel bad when they can't seem to please all their customers. The good news is that they really don't have to.

A study by Deloitte Consulting entitled, "Customer Relationship Management—Increasing Customer Loyalty and Profitability," reveals that companies often spend too much time and money satisfying non-profitable customers that they lose out on the customers that can provide the revenues.

David M. Boden of Deloitte Consulting who handles the consumer business sector in the Asian and African regions, says that only about 20 percent of customers generate 80 percent of the economic value or profitability in an organization.

On the other hand, up to 10 percent of customers have a direct negative impact on the bottom line.

Boden who talked to Business Friday during a retail conference in Singapore, says the trick is to iden-

STOP/ C2

Taiwanese firms help China's school program

TAIPEI - Taiwanese entrepreneurs and charity groups are quietly helping with education programs in China, despite the never-ending war of words between the arch rivals over differing political ideology.

Samuel Yin (Yin Yen-liang), CEO of Ruentex conglomerate, said he chose to help China's youth so they could contribute to the modernization of the mainland.

Wang Chien-shien, director of the Renewal Foundation, which is to build schools in poor and remote villages, said he wanted to give more children the chance to learn "so talents won't be wasted."

They both said it was brotherly love — for those sharing the same cultural background — rather than political or commercial motives that had prompted them to donate millions of dollars or travel to remote areas to offer assistance.

"Why do the two sides (Taiwan and China) have to hate each other? Why do they always talk about war and weapons..? With sincerity, I am taking concrete action to bring the people closer," Yin told AFP in an interview.

Scholarships

Yin, who runs the 14th largest business group in Taiwan, said he had donated some 30 million US dollars to education, medical and cultural programmes in China.

The 51-year-old tycoon said he made up his mind to help with China's higher education programs when he first visited Beijing in 1989 for a steel conference as a member of the Taiwan Research Institute.

The Kwang Hua Educational Foundation was set up in 1989 and that same year extended one million renminbi (125,000 US) in scholarships to 1,726 students from Beijing University, Qinghua University and Mongolia University.

"Now we offer about five million yuans (625,000 US) in scholarships a year to students in universities, graduate schools and PhD programs. About 5,500 young people from 27 universities including those from minor ethnic groups are benefited each year," he said.

Holding a PhD in business management, Yin now flies to Beijing at least once a month to teach at the Kwang Kua Business School which was built at Beijing University in 1995 with 10 million US dollars that Yin donated.

"I enjoy the happiness of being able to teach some of the most intelligent students in China," he said.

Ruentex

Ruentex holds business interests in textiles, construction, financing, hyper market, trade and medicine.

In 1997, Aetna Life Insurance Co. Taiwan Branch, of which Yin is the major shareholder, opened the 10-million US dollar Shanghai Jiaotung University Aetna Business Management School. Two million US dollars had been contributed by Yin.

Two years later, Yin and electronics magnate Chun-yuan of Taiwan's Orient Semiconductor Electronics donated 40 million yuans (five million US) to build a 330-bed Shanghai hospital specializing in liver and gallbladder operations.

Yin said his next plans were to help with China's medical education.

The Renewal Foundation, with its sights set on tackling education at the primary level in China's remote provinces such as Inner Mongolia, is to build its first school after July.

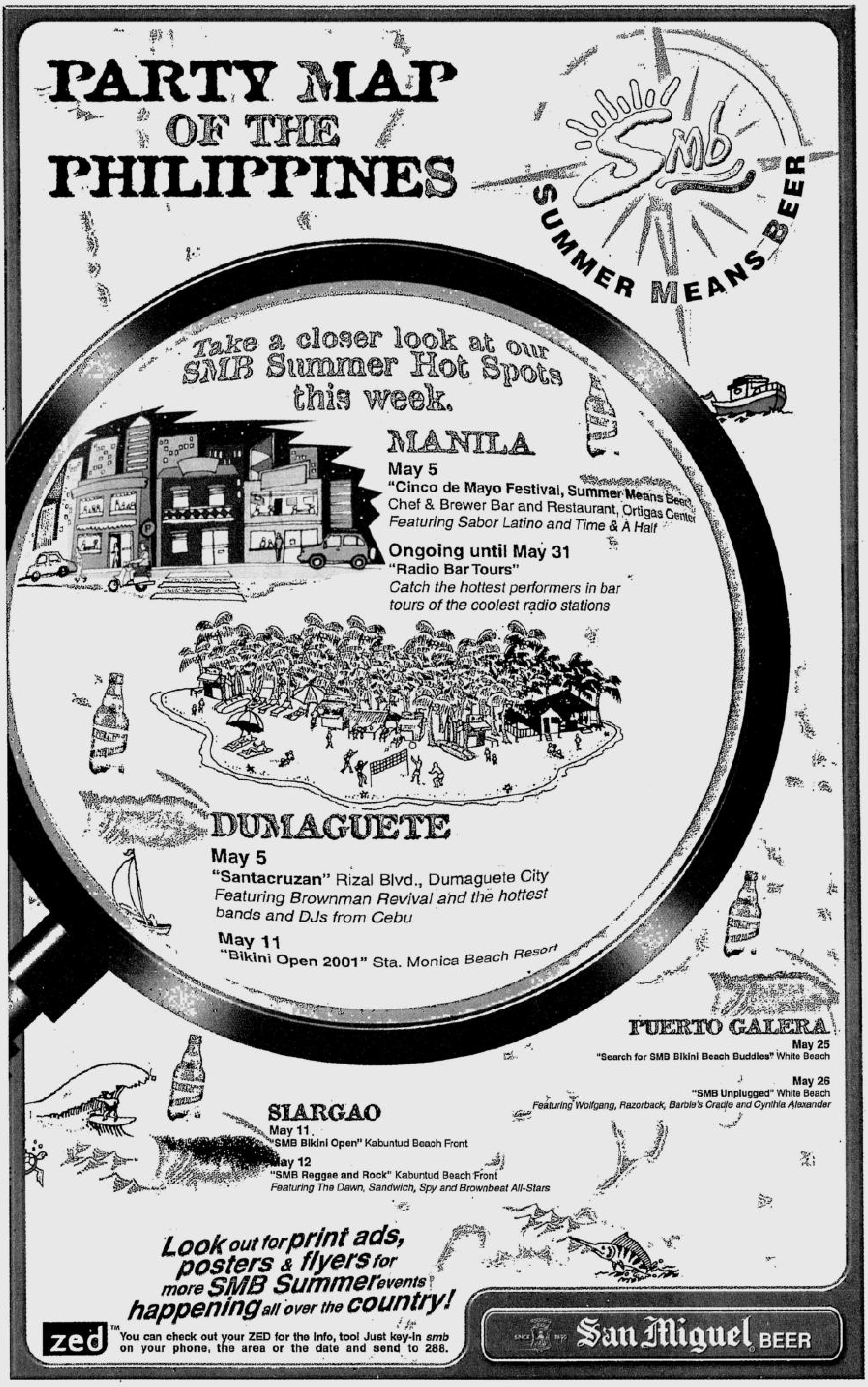
"We chose to serve in the poorest places to give children a chance to learn. My own experience proves that education is the only hope for a better life," said the devout Christian, born to a poor soldier's home 63 years ago.

If the first school proved successful, Wang, a former finance minister and parliamentarian, would accept donations from the public to carry on the project. A school will cost between 200,000 to 300,000 yuans (25,000-37,500 US) and accommodate 200-400 children.

World Vision of Taiwan, a Christian charity group, launched a campaign this week raising funds for its educational and humanitarian programs in the poor areas of China's northwestern provinces.

Their projects include building elementary schools in Gansu Province, enforcing cultural learning in Inner Mongolia, offering scholarships to university students in Shanxi and education programs for girls in Ningxia.

Pioneer of the school-building project was noted Taiwanese entertainer Ling Feng, who collected funds to build over 20 campuses in isolated areas between 1991 -1998 in support of China's Project Hope education program. *AFP*



PARTY MAP OF THE PHILIPPINES

Take a closer look at our SMB Summer Hot Spots this week.

MANILA
May 5
"Cinco de Mayo Festival, Summer Means Beer"
Chef & Brewer Bar and Restaurant, Ortigas Center
Featuring Sabor Latino and Time & A Half
Ongoing until May 31
"Radio Bar Tours"
Catch the hottest performers in bar tours of the coolest radio stations

DUMAGUETE
May 5
"Santacruzan" Rizal Blvd., Dumaguete City
Featuring Brownman Revival and the hottest bands and DJs from Cebu
May 11
"Bikini Open 2001" Sta. Monica Beach Resort

PUERTO GALERA
May 25
"Search for SMB Bikini Beach Buddies" White Beach
May 26
"SMB Unplugged" White Beach
Featuring Wolfgang, Razorback, Barbie's Cradle and Cynthia Alexander

SIARGAO
May 11
"SMB Bikini Open" Kabuntud Beach Front
[illegible]ay 12
"SMB Reggae and Rock" Kabuntud Beach Front
Featuring The Dawn, Sandwich, Spy and Brownbeat All-Stars

Look out for print ads, posters & flyers for more SMB Summer events happening all over the country!

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Stop spending money on the wrong clients

(From page C1)

tify these customers that affect the bottom line through market segmentation.

"Segmenting a customer base is essential in balancing customer expectations versus economic value. Therefore, understanding the needs of each customer segment helps companies deliver customer-centric products," Boden says.

To help choose the right customers, companies must answer these questions:

- Who is the real customer?
- What are they really buying?
- What are the customer segments?
- How do the customers want to buy?
- How will the Internet and the advent of exchanges, marketplaces, etc. change the way customers buy?
- How will the company "market" to the customer (as opposed to sell and serve?)

Market segmentation is part of the total strategy based on enhancing relationships with customers. At no other time in retail history have customers felt that they are really kings.

Customers have started to exercise more power because of the limitless choices in the real and virtual worlds, thus, putting pressure on the retail companies to get them to continue buying something from their stores.

Boden says new customer expectations and accelerating customer power have forced retail companies to change the way they view their customers.

Companies, he says, that retain an old view of their customers found themselves with less loyal customers. These customers left them for other companies that can offer them more than what they paid for. It does not have to be just the item but the total shopping experience.

A solution lies in increasing customer loyalty and profitability through customer relationship management.

CRM is defined as: The integration of everything a retail, operations, service, merchandising and marketing team knows about its customers into one workable database that enables companies to anticipate their customers' needs and thereby boost profits and reduce funds allocated to less profitable customers.

Deloitte figures show that spending for CRM in Asia-Pacific (excluding Japan) will grow by 37 percent from last year's $339 million and as many as 70 percent of all Asian businesses are evaluating CRM strategies starting this year.

These CRM strategies are likely to focus on enhancing marketing strategies. This is based on a recent survey that shows that marketing capabilities will be more important than merchandising in driving growth.

Growth strategies that are said to be most effective over the next two years include:

- Customer loyalty/frequent shopper program
- Development/expansion of Internet-based services
- IT improvements for consumer data collection/analysis
- Enhancement of merchandising/assortments
- Development/expansion of new store concepts or formats, and
- In-store customer service improvements

Implementing CRM strategies is indeed expensive and complex as it involves transforming all processes of the company. Deloitte Consulting, however, says that it will pay off in the end.

"Internal research indicates that those companies that do employ customer-centric strategies and measure segment profitability perform significantly better than those that do not. These companies also report profit levels that are 88 percent higher on average than their less customer centric peers," he says.

These companies enjoy increased shopping frequency/loyalty, increased average purchase, and a higher profit margin.

Tax on acting is a taxing act

By Fidela T. Isip-Reyes
SGV and Co.

TAX-FILES

'TIS the season for graduation once again. Schools are busy with graduation rites, and students are busy pondering on the best college course to take.

Law, medicine, engineering, architecture and the like are courses that will surely delight every parent. But if the students choose acting, should this be a cause for concern? Acting may not only be an expedient way of becoming rich and famous, it could also be the road to becoming the next president of the country.

But do you know that it is also the key to having a reprieve from the payment of value added tax (VAT)?

Republic Act No. 9010, otherwise known as "An Act to Further Defer the Imposition of the Value Added Tax on Certain Services, Amending for the Purpose Section 5 of RA 8424, as Amended by RA 8761," defers the imposition of VAT on certain services until Dec. 31, 2002.

These services include:

(a) Services performed in the exercise of profession or calling subject to the professional tax as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, and professional services performed by registered general professional partnerships; (b) actors, actresses, talents, singers and emcees; (c) radio and television broadcasters, choreographers were also exempted along with; (d) musical, radio, movie, television and stage directors; (e) professional athletes; (f) services rendered by banks, nonbank financial intermediaries, finance companies and other financial intermediaries not performing quasi-banking functions; and (g) services rendered by stock, real estate, commercial, customs and immigration brokers.

Assuming there is no further deferment, the VAT on these services will be imposed beginning Jan. 1, 2003.

Until then, taxpayers rendering these services, shall pay the applicable taxes prescribed under the pertinent provisions of the Tax Code, except that the brokers have to pay a tax equivalent to 7 percent based on gross receipts from brokering services beginning Jan. 1, 2001 until Dec. 31, 2002.

Although the VAT Law has been effective since Jan. 1, 1988, the imposition of VAT on these services was legislated only with the passage of RA 7716 on May 5, 1994. However, the imposition of VAT on these services was deferred for two years from the effectivity of RA 7716. To date, this has never been implemented due to a series of laws deferring its effectivity.

On Dec. 20, 1996, RA 8241 was passed which further deferred the imposition of VAT on services enumerated therein until Jan. 1, 1998.

On Jan. 1, 1998, RA 8424 or the Tax Reform Act of 1997 took effect. Once again, the effectivity of the imposition of VAT as prescribed in RA 7616 as amended by RA 8241 was further deferred until Dec. 31, 1999.

The imposition of VAT was further delayed to Jan. 1, 2001 by virtue of RA 8761, entitled "An Act Imposing the Value-Added Tax on Certain Services Beginning Jan. 1, 2001, Amending for the Purpose Section 5 of Republic Act No. 8424 and for Other Purposes."

On Feb. 27, 2001, RA 9010 was finally issued.

While the repeated deferment of the imposition of the VAT is a cause for joy for these taxpayers, for our country's tax collectors, it is indeed taxing. Perhaps, they can get a reprieve by a change of profession.

How about acting, anyone?

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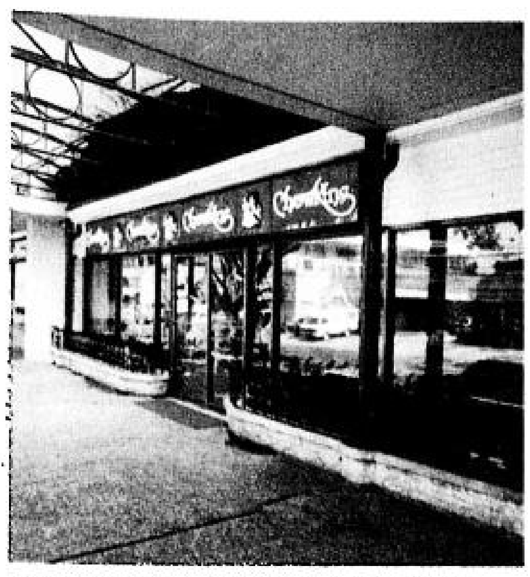
FOCUS SHIFTS TO ADULT MARKET

Fast food finds catering to all does not work



CHOWKING Park Square with the old logo

THE NEW Chowking store on E. Rodriguez Avenue

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

CHOWKING Food Corp. has emerged as the leading Chinese fast-food restaurant chain after successfully combining reasonably priced Chinese staples loved by Filipinos with the Western style fast food joint with its bright interiors and efficient service.

MARKETING STRATEGY

Chowking's growth, however, slowed down in recent years and came to a standstill due to the lack of focus in its marketing campaign.

The fast-food chain founded by Robert Kuan attempted to cater to all segments of the market. It had mascots and toys for the kids and its advertising focused on families, teenagers and senior citizens.

Chowking, in short, wanted to be everything for everybody.

With the takeover of Jollibee Foods Corp. on Jan. 1, 2000, changes were immediately implemented to strengthen Chowking's foothold in the market and to bring the restaurant chain back on the growth path. And it meant more than just getting rid of the Chinese man in the logo.

Raffy L. Dela Rosa, Chowking president and chief executive officer, tells the INQUIRER that the Jollibee group wanted to implement a fresh corporate image that focused on a specific market—the working adults who eat a lot but are confined to a budget.

"We conducted an extensive market research and we found out that the people who went to Chowking are the working adults. These are the people who want quality food fast and at affordable prices. This is the specific market that Chowking caters to," Dela Rosa explains.

Store service and design were reconfigured to fit this market's tastes. From red and white, Chowking stores now sport orange and blue interiors that represent a right mix of East and West. The façade, layout, countertops, furniture and staff uniforms were changed to project a more dynamic image.

One of the most notable changes was the installation of the new menu board that highlighted the top selling food items that Chowking offered. The items were trimmed down considerably when Jollibee took over to concentrate on the fast moving dishes and for greater efficiency.

The new look was launched in June last year and is now seen in all new stores, the old stores are now being renovated and Chowking expects to complete the renovations in three years.

Dela Rosa stresses that the changes are not just physical. He says Jollibee conducted a massive training of managers and staff to teach them about Jollibee's standards of cleanliness and fast service.

"In the early days of Jollibee's takeover, it took as long as 30 minutes to bring the food to the table. We were able to bring the service time down to 5 to 10 minutes in keeping with Jollibee's standards," he says.

This was complemented by newly installed front and backend systems designed to ensure cost efficiency, speed up service and increase customer satisfaction.

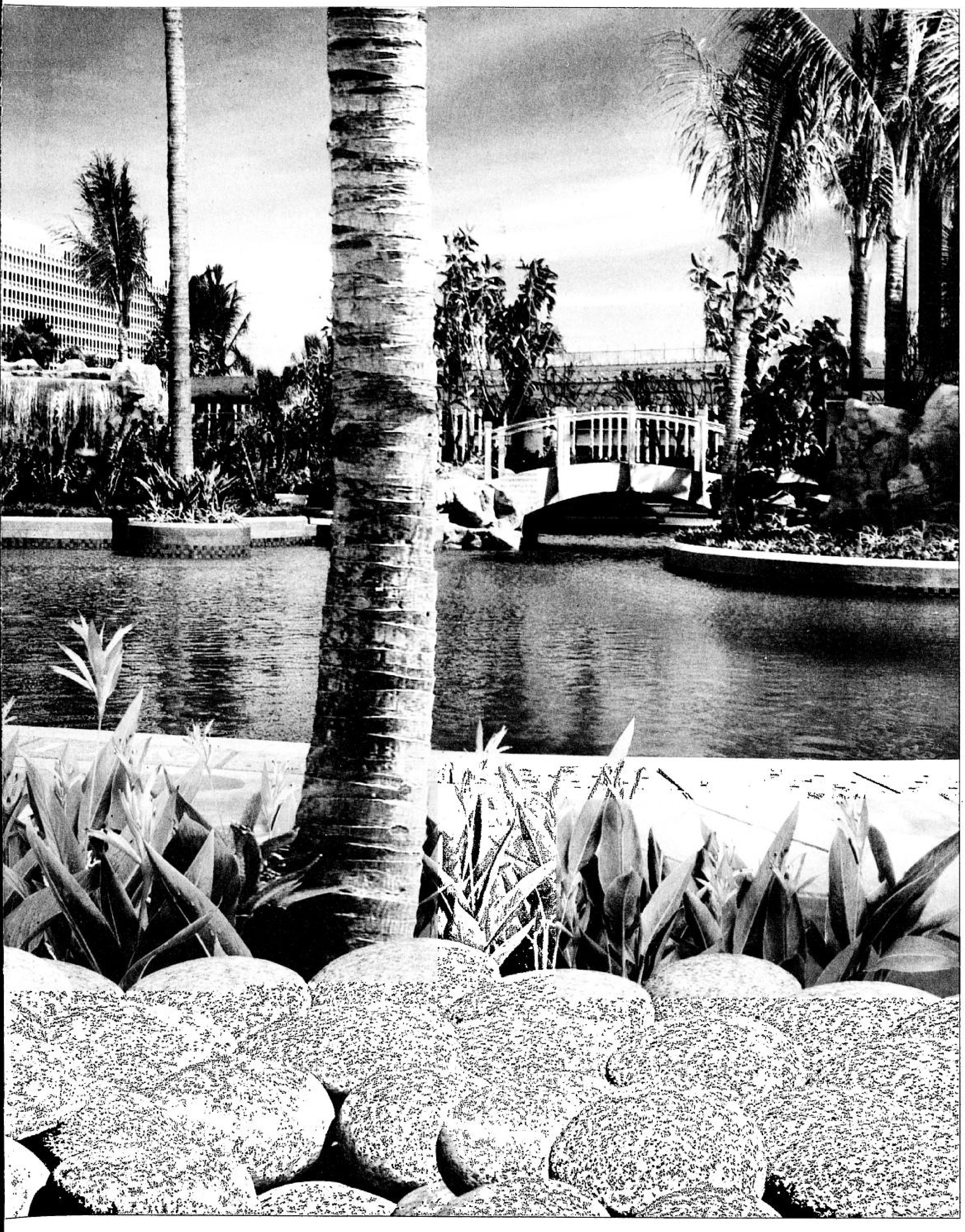
"The challenge is to provide customers delicious, steaming hot food in five minutes, with a smile in a clean store. We have to be consistent in fulfilling this mission and not to deviate," Dela Rosa says.

After all the internal and external changes were completed, Chowking was ready to hype it through a series of advertisements that centered on the tagline: *"Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain."*

"We wanted to stand out in the crowd through our simple but effective advertisements that communicate to adults. We want to project a more dynamic Chowking," Dela Rosa says.

Dela Rosa says the new brand campaign is starting to reap benefits with some of the old stores generating as much as 50 percent increases in sales a year after the take over of Jollibee. Total store sales jumped from P2.1 billion prior to the take over to P2.4 billion last year.

"We expect to grow sales to P3.6 billion by the end of the year based on the growth in same store sales and the construction of new stores from 159 to about 185 by the end of the year," he says.



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PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE CRISIS

Firms find cure for drug scare in info campaign

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A SUDDEN drop in income is a bitter pill to swallow for any company and the pharmaceutical and healthcare association almost had one forced down its throat when the US Food and Drug Administration issued a health warning over PPA or Phenylpropanolamine.

The US FDA had previously issued a public health warning in November on the risk of hemorrhagic stroke associated with the use of PPA in anti-obesity drugs.

The Bureau of Food and Drug, however, came up with a quick cure when it immediately clarified the potentially damaging issue for the pharmaceutical industry. Roughly 9 out of 10 cough and cold medication contain PPA because of its potency.

PHAP assistant vice president Eufe M. Tantia said the BFAD stressed that PPA was only used in the Philippines as an active ingredient for a number of over-the-counter medications used for treating cough and colds and relief of stuffy nose and sinus congestion.

BFAD said there were no appetite suppressants with high PPA contents currently registered with the agency.

The PPA scare was triggered by the release of study by experts from the Yale University School of Medicine who concluded that PPA found in suppressant drugs (or anti-obesity drugs) could increase the rise of hemorrhagic stroke or bleeding of the brain.

The study did not find a risk of hemorrhagic stroke associated with PPA in cold and flu remedies but only suggested an increased risk when used in products as long-term slimming aids.

Tantia said BFAD also informed the public that OTC drugs in the country contained less than 25 milligrams per dosage while medications with more than 50 milligrams per dosage were available upon doctor's prescription.

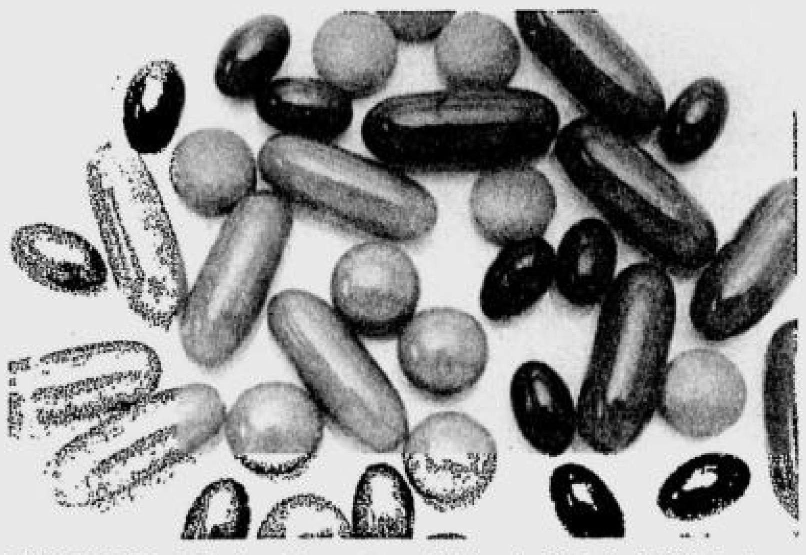
BFAD also questioned the results of the five-year study saying that it had some methodological flaws that raised questions about the validity of the study's results.

To ease the public's concern, the BFAD issued an Administrative Order last December wherein it declared that medicines that contained PPA including pediatric formulations may remain in the market for the relief of colds and influenza.

Tantia said that had the BFAD dilly-dallied in reacting to the US FDA warning, sales of pharmaceutical firms with PPA could have been seriously affected.

Aside from the information campaign, the BFAD conducted public hearings to further abate concerns on PPA's side effects.

Tantia said that sales have remained relatively stable as consumers apparently were appeased by the BFAD's timely advisory.



THE BUREAU of Food and Drugs immediately clarified that PPA in drugs distributed in the Philippines does not cause bleeding of the brain

German sisters get right brew for success

DETMOLD, Germany—When it comes to beer, Germany's Strate sisters can really hold their own against the men.

For the past seven years, the two feisty blondes, under the watchful eye of their flame-haired mother, have run their own brewery in the western city of Detmold with aplomb.

While many of their male colleagues in Germany's beer industry have been staggering under the influence of declining demand and oversupply, the Strate trio have not only stood their ground, they've blazed a trail.

Sales of their flagship Detmold Pils, a light sweet beer, and the amber-colored Detmold Landbeer, have grown eight-fold over the past 10 years, compared to a 5-percent drop in turnover industry-wide.

Friederike Strate, the elder of the two sisters and Germany's first female beer master, puts their success down to a mix of hard work and innovation.

"We're ready to try anything. We stick our necks out and take a chance," said the 36-year-old, who is responsible for quality and has to drink a sample everyday to gauge the taste.

Boozy picnics

Determined to stand out in a crowded home market of more than 1,200 breweries, Friederike, along with younger sister Simone and mother Renate came up with the idea for a special presentation 2-liter bottle of beer.

Sold in either a rucksack or basket, she recommends it as the perfect picnic accompaniment and with an alcohol content of nearly 5 percent, it's infinitely more exciting than a flask of tea.

At the age of 15, when most of her peers were struggling to get served alcohol in the local Kneipe (pub), Friederike had already started to learn the brewer's trade.

Four years later she was Germany's youngest beer master, taking half the time of her 64 male classmates to qualify.

"The guys were thrilled to finally have a woman in the class. That was a wonderful time," said Strate, straining to be heard above the whir of the bottling machines and the noise of the brewery staff rushing to and fro in green and red overalls.

Home is where the beer is

The Strate women don't just live from beer, they live with it. Home is in the brewery, a grandiose red brick building complete with a tower and two gigantic copper vats of boiling malt in the main hallway.

In the manicured grounds, hedges shaped like mice jolt the sober eye. The ecological rodents are part of a burgeoning box tree zoo, including peacocks and bears, often given as presents to the Strates by satisfied customers.

In a traditionally male place of work, the woman's touch is plainly evident.

"We want to make this brewery the most beautiful in the country," gushes Simone, who takes care of the financial side of the business.

The family has been brewing in Detmold, a picturesque city in the heart of the Teutoburger Forest, for nearly 150 years and Friederike and Simone are the fifth generation to take up what is still a predominantly male profession.

"When we first took over after our father's death I think people were interested to see how much we knew. But they take us seriously now because we've proved successful," said Simone. "If we had failed they would have trampled all over us."

Standing room only

Competition is certainly tight in the crowded German beer market with 1,270 breweries accounting for three quarters of the European total and each one determined to sop up the other's market share.

The industry is choked by over-capacity and ripe for consolidation but this process is proving protracted, hindered by family-owned breweries such as the Strates who refuse to sell and are not interested in expansion.

"We have enough to do as it is," said Friederike who works a 15-hour day along with her sister and mother, the brewery's image consultant.

Detmold beer is sold only within an 80-km radius of the brewery, a symptom of the strict segmentation of Germany's beer market, where many fiercely loyal drinkers would rather go thirsty than sip a non-local brew.

The absence of a leading national brand is a further deterrent for large foreign players wishing to enter a market already in need of restructuring.

Industry hangover

Against a backdrop of oversupply, the German beer industry has been hit by shrinking demand.

Mounting health concerns, dubbed "hysteria" by the German brewers' federation, have seen beer consumption shrink 9 percent in 10 years.

Once the biggest beer drinkers in the world, the Germans have now dropped to third place with a per capita consumption of 125.5 liters, behind the Czechs and the Irish.

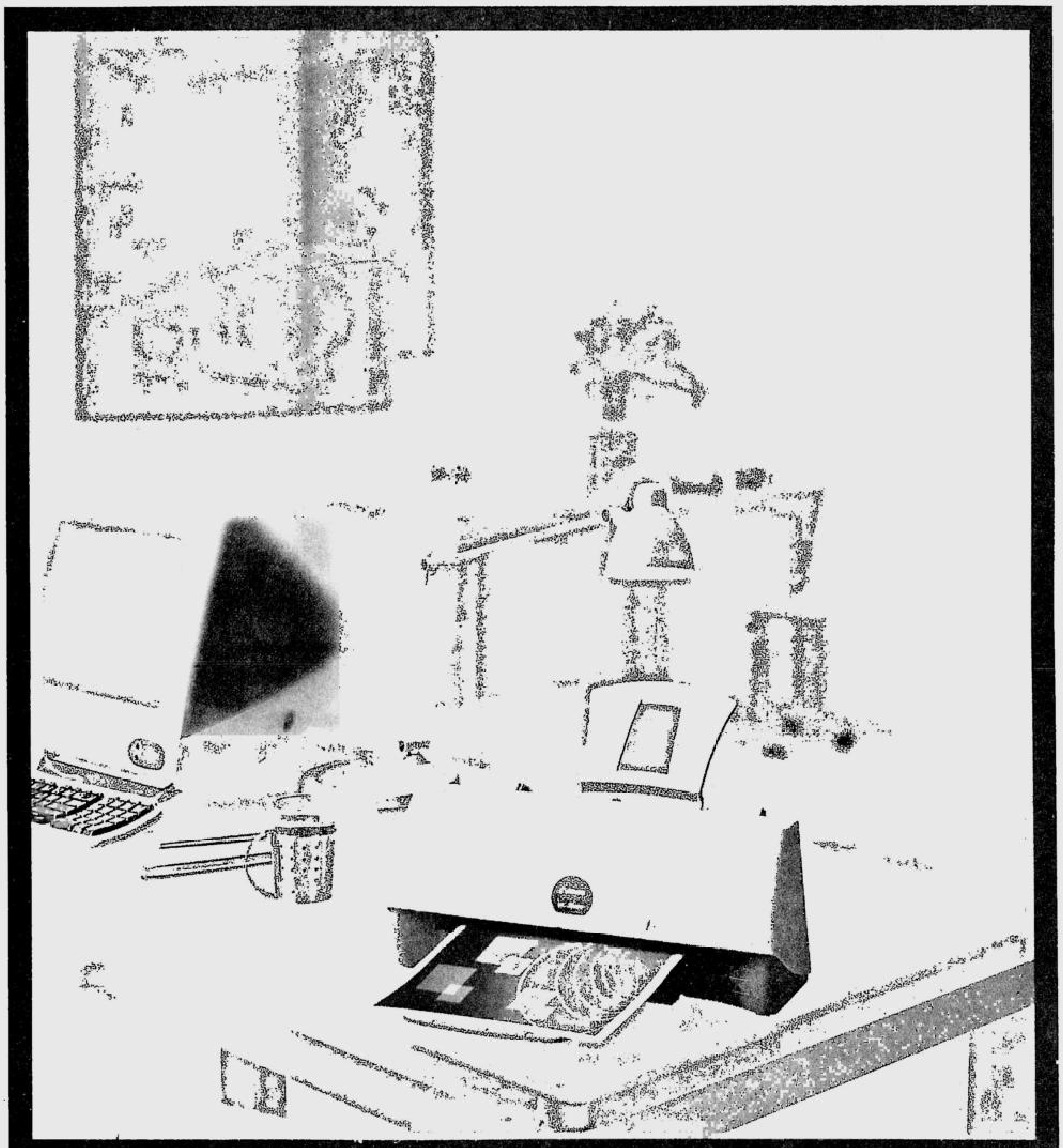
Not surprisingly, the mood among small-time breweries is glum, with many forced to sell off chunks of property to keep their heads above water.

The Strate sisters, however, dismiss the gloom.

"People in the industry are so pessimistic but as far as I'm concerned there will always be customers for good produce," said Simone.

The women are determined to continue innovating, but one niche market they refuse to tap into is non-alcoholic beer.

"How boring!" they exclaim in unison. *Reuters*



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In the end there was only cowardice

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

THAT and denial to death. Not only did the demagogues not jump off the plane like one of them promised to, they also abandoned the masses of their self-tagged "Edsa III"—after they set them up for a rampage.

At the height of the attack, they were nowhere. In the morning after, they said they couldn't have stopped it, or worse, they didn't even know these people. In a CNN interview, they even claimed the military and the police provoked the mob into it. (Hello!? Were you watching Chechnya or Mendiola?)

Of the overload of TV images that Labor Day, one remains on my mind—the sight of an old woman, an Erap band tied around her head, sobbing on the bosom of a nun. This Erap diehard was left behind in Edsa when the mob set out for Malacañang. She suddenly found herself alone, surrounded by nuns and other anti-Erap forces who came that morning to clean up the shrine and reclaim Edsa. She had been abandoned by her "Edsa III" and was now amid her perceived enemy. The nun embraced the weeping woman who then fainted. They brought her to shelter and administered to her. That must have been the only good scene on my TV that morning.

At dawn, Labor Day, we woke up to TV images of a rampaging mob, but it wasn't the action that alarmed us—it was the fury on their faces. A mindless fury. It wasn't at all like the violent clashes of the First Quarter Storm, which were made up mainly of students and cause-oriented labor, when rebellion had an ideology and romanticism to it.

This time, faces were ranting and raving through the camera—straight into your home. Naked anger.

Mind of the mob

Even in its adventurist moments in the '70s, I don't remember the Left letting loose the "lumpen" or the masses on Malacañang in that scale.

While the Edsa crowd was built on the adulation of a fallen idol, you've realized that, as anchor Randy David had described the scene, the mind of the mob had taken over. It was a mob that had been sufficiently fired up by the Opposition, methodically reduced into their sense of self-pity, and conditioned into hatred against the "rich," the establishment, even media. Against the world, in fact. It was a mob capable of torching even a Red Cross van.

This time the politicians surely fast-tracked the bloodshed. They used people who were hungry, dispossessed and felt they had nothing to lose anyway. In this era of power grab, the politicians mined the despair, anger, lust for blood of this class and tried to turn it into wholesale anarchy.

Just a week ago, we amusedly awaited the sight of a coiffured Mad Cow falling off a plane, or a Mad Cow being shot at Luneta. But then the Mad Cow copped out. Last night we were no longer in the mood for hilarity. Not even the new era of text jokes (e.g. latest Edsa count: 3,000—tooth count) can bring us to a trivial mood.

The mob attack of Mendiola now forces us instead to face a mirror. For this "Edsa III," propagandized as such by its greedy instigators, is but a harsh mirror of the unfinished business that was Edsa II. We look in the mirror and we see our pathetic face—the two kinds of poor: the sold-out poor whose bodies are for hire simply because their stomachs have to be fed the day's meal; and the marginalized poor whose hurts have been bottled up all these decades, their plight exploited at best or ignored at the least.

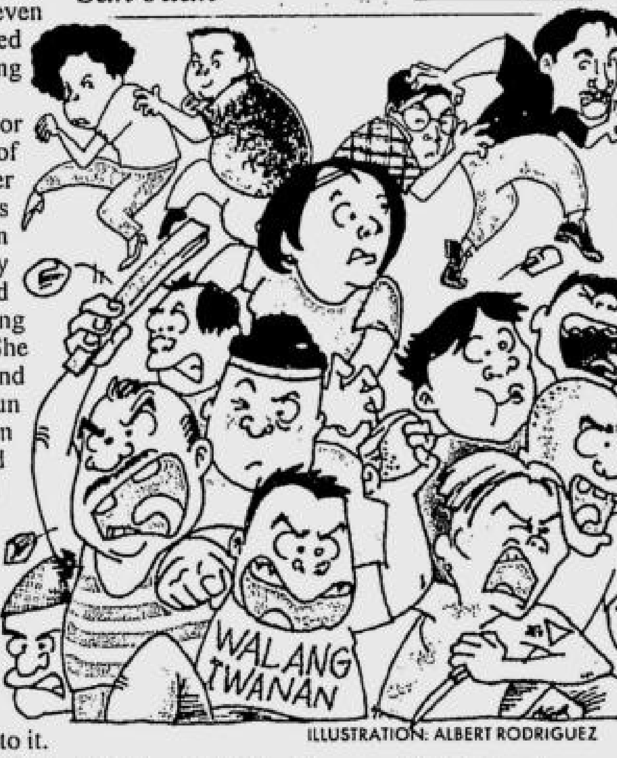

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

> 'Edsa III' is the unfinished business of Edsa II. We're getting the poor we deserve, their anger so naked. And to think, we're not even rich

Either way, we created that poor. Ironically, it's the very politicians—the corrupt order—they were extolling and protecting in Edsa, with their bare bodies, who pinned them down to that state. And the system—the government, big business, the Church and Civil Society included—has only guaranteed the swelling of their ranks.

In short, we're now getting the poor we deserve. It's the monster unleashed, and trucked in from everywhere.

The 'Edsa III' farce

But this attack of conscience shouldn't mask the farce that was "Edsa III."

We didn't undertake Edsa I and II for **Cory Aquino, Cardinal Sin, Enrile, Gringo, Ramos** or **GMA**, not even for **Ninoy**. Edsa I was a freedom fight against dictatorship. Edsa II went beyond political rights and liberties. It went deep into the values we believe in—we may not live them all the time, but we believe in them nonetheless. No matter the warts that resurfaced after Edsa II, Edsa II was a reassertion of these values—integrity, morality, work ethic, pride of country—a reaffirmation that we want to build a future generation anchored on these values. That

IN THE END/ p.D2

Art contest cancelled

GIFT Gate regrets to announce that the "Me and Mom on Mother's Day" at the Glorietta Activity Center scheduled for May 6 has been cancelled due to the current situation.

Instead, all the kids are encouraged to give Mom an early Mother's Day by spending the day with her and making her feel extra special.

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Colors of inner beauty

By Marge C. Enriquez

FASHION colors prevail not because they're dictated by designers or retailers. There's a deeper meaning as to why the combination of black and white is hot this season and why pink is ubiquitous in all the makeup brands.

These colors resonate with the need of the times, says color therapist Paola Sani. People sense colors on many levels. The brain has pineal glands that control the rhythms of life. When light enters through the eyes or skin, it travels neurological pathways to these pineal glands. Different colors emit various wavelength frequencies that have an effect on the mind and body. Colors are primal to our lives. However, since humans are always looking for gratification outside of themselves, they see color superficially—as an adornment to complement a theme.

The popularity of black and white reflects how society sees everything in duality—yin and yang, good and evil. White light contains all the colors in the spectrum. White evokes purity, transcendence, the spirit and merging with God. Black is a bridge to the spirit and that place beyond the veil illusion. In color therapy, white recharges and black helps the patience reach silence and listen to God.

According to Sani, this symbolizes the need for spiritual light to dispel the darkness of ignorance.

Pink, which is favored as the season's lipstick color, reflects unconditional love. Sani says now is the time to begin loving the self and spreading that love to others. Pink reflects the kind of love that accepts.

Early this year, magazines were awash with gold accessories. Gold signifies the ancient wisdom lying within the soul. Notice how people are more open to meditation and new ideas of spiritual awareness?

Coral is the color of the new millennium. It seeks to understand life. A person who wears coral believes that everything should be done in cooperation, not competition.

Lilac or lavender is a spiritual color that belongs to the violet family. Violet stimulates the emotions in a spiritual way and sharpens the intuition. Sani says the lightness of lilac means reviving spirituality through transformation. It is also the color of service to mankind as it projects equilibrium.

> The popularity of black and white reflects how society sees everything in duality; the red and blue combination reminds people to balance female energies with male energies

Expressing joy

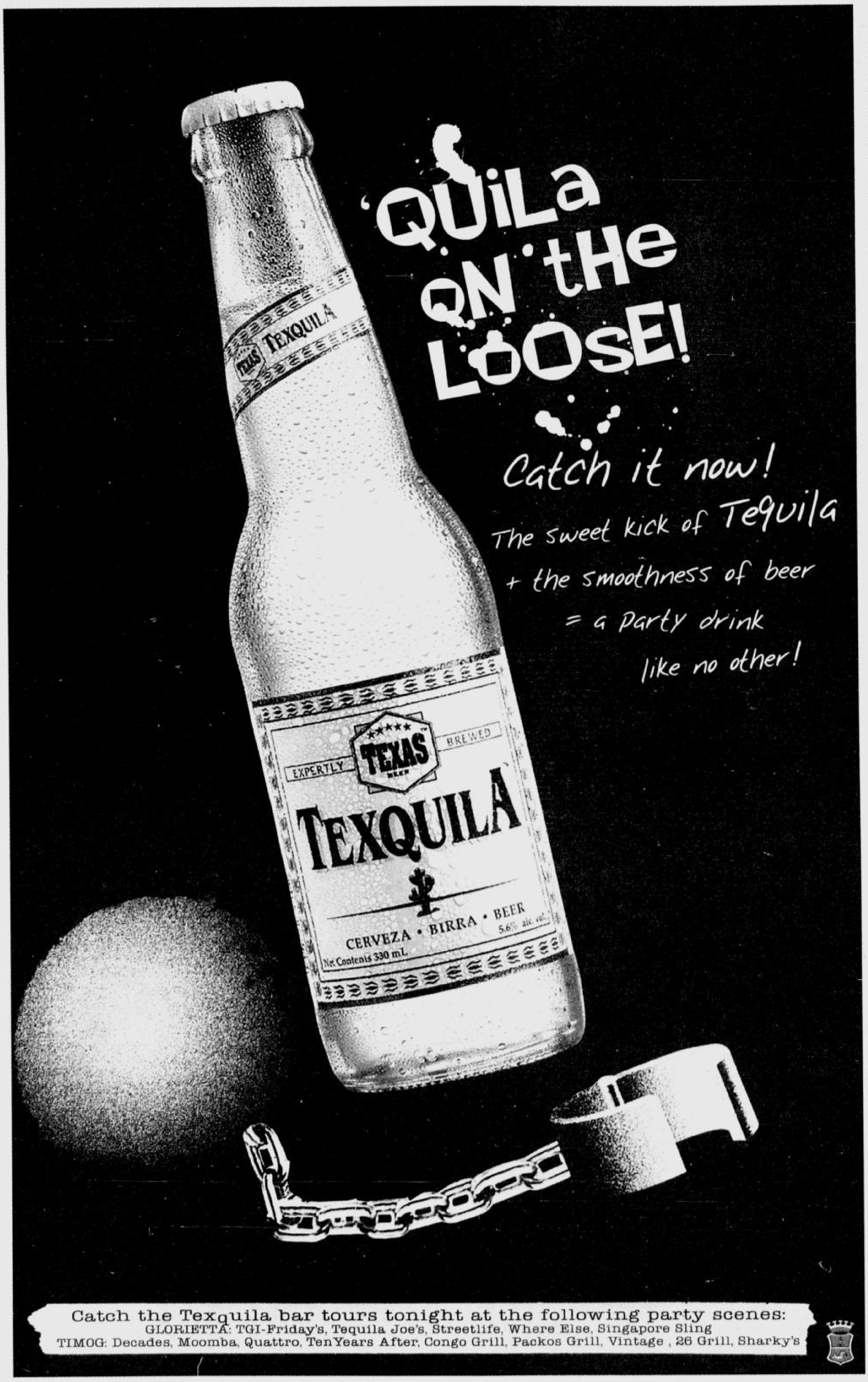
During summer citrus colors such as lemon, tangerine and lime abound. They all contain yellow, which represents intellectual clarity, learning, empowerment, self-esteem and concentration. Orange evokes joy, warmth, creativity, sociability and energy. It relates to the second chakra, which means awakening to wisdom within the self. Green embodies harmony and spiritual rebirth. Sani interprets the combination of citrus colors as the time to open up to each other and express joy.

The military look is in; olive green is favored since it stands for precision work, integrity and seeking truth Sani says olive green symbolizes the rise of female leadership or the affirmation of female energy that restores the balance of power in a world ruled by masculine aggression, power and ego. The earth colors in the military look reflect the need to respect Nature and human values.

Nautical colors during summer

COLORS/ p.D3

NARCISO Rodriguez's striped dress for Loewe in black and white. The season's popular color combi-nation symbolizes the search for enlightenment in the darkness of ignorance.



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In the end . . .

(From page D1)

was how those who went to Edsa II felt, and nothing and no one can change that, or misrepresent that collective intention. Not now or in the future.

"Edsa III" had none of these values—it had only the physical shrine where ranted the political candidates who wanted to score. And poverty, an illness at its terminal stage. And the fury of the mob. (**Anthony Spaeth**, this is your mob rule, not Edsa II.)

In between Edsa I and Edsa II and the propaganda "Edsa III," hopes were raised but obviously lessons were not learned. Criminals got away. And, in between, a class war was hyped to protect some political asses (including the Mad Cow's). The rich versus the poor.

Ironically again, we're not even rich. The people who made time for Edsa II, those who skipped office and businesses just to be counted, were also struggling from day to day, living on salaries and trying to make both ends meet—not all toothless and tattooed, but strugglers just the same, like those in "Edsa III."

The middle class

It's us middle class who wants to make an honest living on hard-earned skills—but in a country that is progressive and which should give us a fair deal. We, the middle class, aren't asking for much; we just want a trash-less society (literally and figuratively) that gives us back what we pay for in honest, back-breaking tax. It's us middle class who want to stay in this country not only because we cannot afford a home in San Francisco or a vacation house in St. Barth's (you don't know that, do you? That's the cool place for Hollywoodites), but because we want to raise our children in this country, nowhere else. It's us middle class who can't stand the politician's wife who blows our hard-earned money on jewelry and liposuction (or liposculpture, excuse me).

So now you see why the masses of "Edsa III" shouldn't be a monster we detest or fear; it is a mirror we must confront and reach out to. Hard though we try, we cannot disown it. "Edsa III" is our lowlife.

So again, the guessing game—will there be trouble again tonight?

I can only tuck in my son in bed, be grateful that the kids are safe tonight, then pray. Cory, Cardinal Sin and GMA call it Prayer Power, and I honestly believe that is really their lifestyle. It is interesting to note that the two coup-threatened Presidents this country has had are women, but more than being women, they have strong devotion to the Virgin. GMA's husband **Mike** has told me that what has impressed him most about his wife since school was her pious devotion to Mary.

For all their flaws, I believe Cory and GMA have what male presidents lack—spiritual strength. I like to think that GMA will use that inner strength not only to see her through this crisis, but more important, to bring about genuine reforms and structural change. But first, she must be firm in dealing with the instigators of this bloodshed.

When she first came on TV in the early morning, after a night of turmoil, she looked haggard, her eyebags so puffed up that she looked like the thinner version of her mother. But she also looked and spoke tough. That was good enough for us.

Fight for survival

Just more than a week ago, **Marge E.** advised me to switch back to trend and style talk, and we both looked forward to bringing to readers the resurgence of the **Jackie O** style (thanks to Marc Jacobs and Helmut Lang collections and the current museum exhibit in New York), and the prevalence of black-and-white dressing.

Big deal. Forget style or fashion. We're back to fighting for sanity and survival. To me the sign of the times is that since I began Life-Styled six months ago, I never really got around to tackling fashion or style for the simple reason that just when I'd be raring to do so, our collective lifestyle would be held hostage to an Impeachment Trial, a coup threat, or the call for an Edsa Revolution. That's an irony I, as a pigeon-holed style chronicler, feel privileged to keep on experiencing, and which I will gladly recount to my grandchildren eons from now if only to help them understand the screw-ups and struggles undergone by our generation to bring them a future.

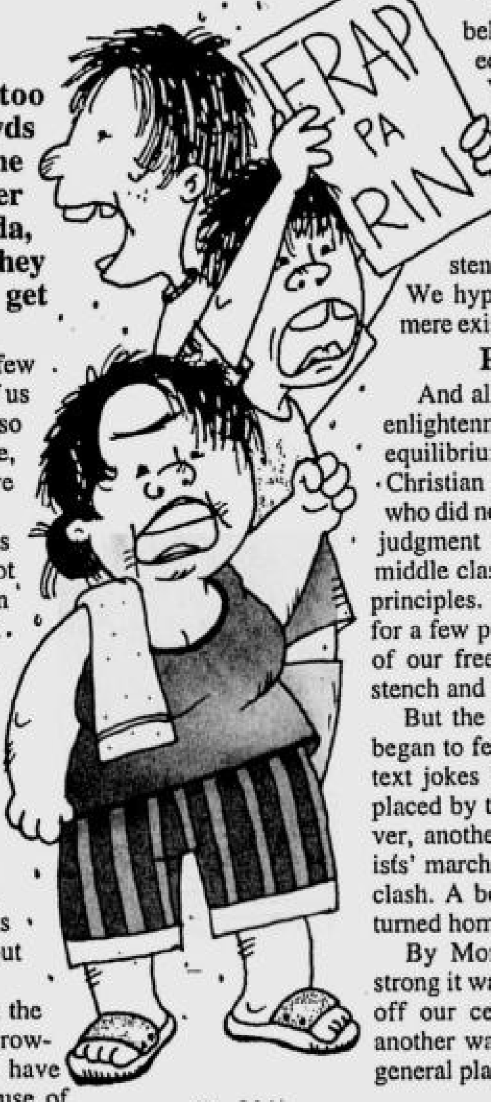
If there's one good thing to emerge from all these Edsas, it must be that they send a strong warning to public officials that while you can cheat once in a while, you can't cheat all the time and get away with it.

GMA must not match her opponents' cowardice with compromise.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

The poor that everyone 'cares for' finally gets to Edsa

BY JOSE JAVIER REYES



THE WORDS were all too familiar. When the crowds started gathering around the Edsa Shrine on April 25, hours after the arrest of Joseph Ejercito Estrada, the comments were dismissive. "They will last for about five days... get tired... then go home."

When Ernie Maceda said that only a few months ago, we were enraged. So many of us felt mocked, belittled, but we were also inspired to show determination and muscle, to stand on that historic intersection to drive home our point and prove him wrong.

The Estrada administration was surprised we did not get tired. We did not go home and there was no reconciliation party at Malacañang with the Makati Business Club as *Ka* Ernie predicted. Instead, we heralded yet another miracle called People Power II. The world chuckled, not all that impressed despite the congratulations; some even dared to call the great achievement as mob rule or a soft military coup d'etat. We did not take that nicely; we were again showing the world—only after 15 years—how the sheer will and number of Filipinos can effect drastic political change without shedding a single drop of blood.

Now we were surprised. For six days, the people who gathered again in Edsa kept growing in number. Although they did not have major network broadcast coverage because of their own doing, we saw photos of the flyov crammed with people, draped in stream proclaiming an entirely different belief. T throng demanded fair treatment for the depo President. They called for the resignation of Macapagal-Arroyo. They even asked for si elections. No, they did not go home either. Tl also stayed... and we felt scandalized a vandalized.

No comparison

There were those of us who were disgus when the Erap supporters announced they w engaged in People Power or "Edsa III." H could this massive congregation compare w the glorious points in our history when we posed a dictator and booted out someone deemed corrupt and incompetent? Blc pressures rose in protest over the moral valic of this mass action. Those who were appal by the situation said the crowd did not repres a cross-section of society. We assured oursel that without the support of media, the milit and most especially the business sectors, uprising could hope to succeed.

But the crowds stayed on. And multipli And they were angry. They were bitter a vindictive.

"*Hakot lang ang mga yan*," we said. "*Baya lang ang lahat ng mga nandidiyan*."

We berated the crowds for their lack principle, their ignorance, their stupidity. threw casual yet vicious comments about way they looked—the seeming abundance people with bleached hair or unlikely to beco models for toothpaste ads. We assumed tl smelled, and had questionable reputations a dubious occupations. We sent text messa mocking them for their poverty and vulgar We wept at the desecration of the sacred grou that meant so much to us as a people and ser as a landmark of our achievements.

We rationalized that the crowd at the Shr was herded and brought by 10-wheelers, p vincial buses and jumbo jeepneys from nea cities and provinces. Local politicians alig with Erap collected them from the armpits the metropolis. We reacted vehemently to a port that the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shad allegedly issued orders to their members to to Edsa and show support for the ex-Preside We screamed at the thought that the Edsa Shr had been raped, mocked and infested by peo we deemed not worthy to tread on the h grounds. We even went so far as to say tl have no right to be there because that territ was "ours."

Again, we sent text messages—even m cruel than all those jokes about Miriam a Tessie O. We made fun of the pathetic condit of those people who held what seemed lik pagan fiesta in front of the giant image of Blessed Virgin Mary. We condemned th behavior and preened in our moral, economic and intellectual superiority. We called them idiots and we shuddered as we watched videos displaying their pedestrian ways. We shrieked in horror at their toilet habits. We were contemptuous of the litter, the debris, the stench they created around the perimeter. We hyperventilated at the thought of their mere existence. We considered them obscene.

Righteous middle class

And all the while we prayed for peace and enlightenment. We implored God to bring back equilibrium to the country. We proclaimed our Christian beliefs while we condemned those who did not possess finesse and manners, better judgment and good taste. Ah, the righteous middle classes. We will and can never sell our principles. We can never exchange our beliefs for a few pesos supposedly taped at the bottom of our free meals. We will never endure the stench and rowdy behavior.

But the crowds kept getting bigger and we began to feel nervous. By Sunday morning, the text jokes have lessened and started to be replaced by threats of yet another military takeover, another coup d'etat and possibly a loyalists' march to Malacañang leading to a head-on clash. A bomb exploded in a mall. We all returned home but the crowds at Edsa stayed.

By Monday evening, the tension was so strong it was almost tangible. Some of us turned off our cell phones, refusing to receive yet another warning about this and that senator or general planning a massive act of treason. Some of us returned to Mendiola to show support for the administration and protect Ms Macapagal-Arroyo. But by the early hours of Tuesday, the Edsa crowd left the Shrine and fulfilled their threat. They marched to Malacañang.

They came in thousands. Shirtless with backpacks hanging from their persons, sweating and sleepless. They marched straight into the waiting lines of policemen with their shields and truncheons. They hurled rocks, they threw bitter invectives. Tear gas canisters were tossed and warning shots fired... and then the final encounter.

No miracle took place here. Just people...

THE POOR/ p.D5

Colors . . . (From page D

such as red and blue also stand for the idea polarity or opposites. Red is a color that symb izes power, passion, energy, materialism and s cess. On the other hand, blue is calming a embodies the femininity and nurturing qualitie is also the color of receptivity and communicati

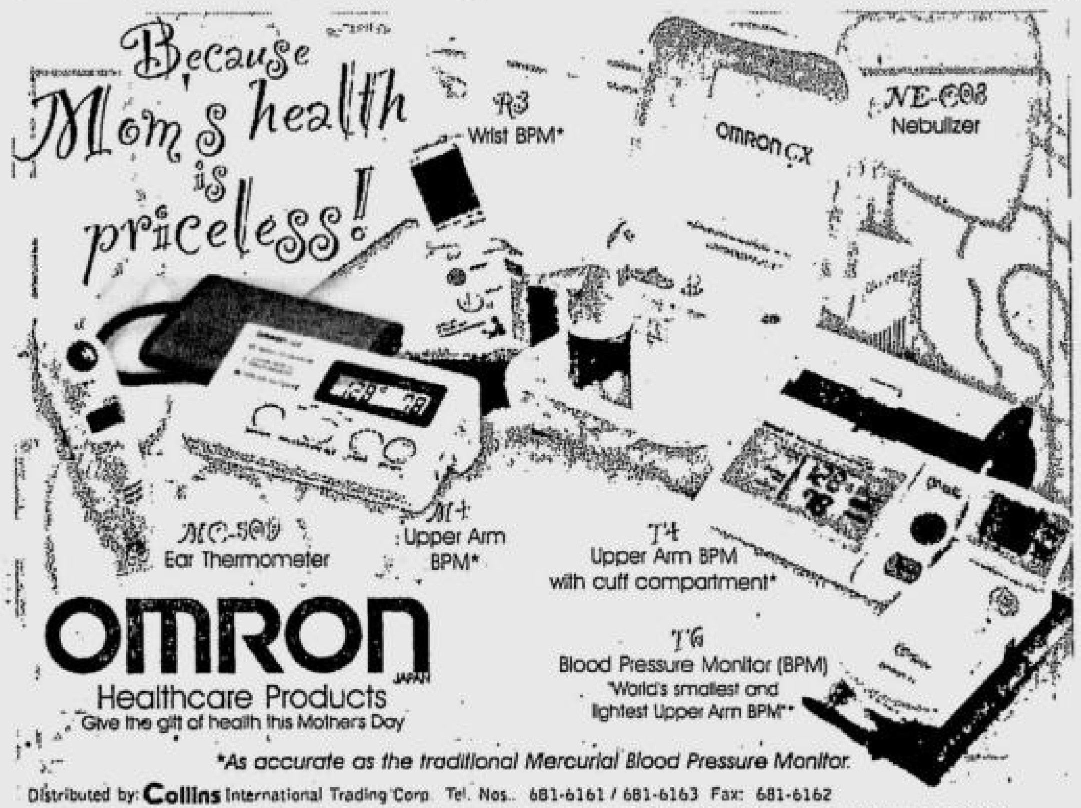
The red and blue combination reminds soci to balance the female energy (nurturing, coolne relaxing, insight, higher consciousness) that's b dominated by the negative male energies of e power-tripping and materialism.

Ironically, blue is a color often associated w men's fashion. But when a man wears blue, h getting in touch with his female qualities, such intuition. As a nurturing color, it also means protective nature of the father.

In color therapy, pink, which has soothing qu ties, has controlled negative tendencies such a voracious appetite and violent tempers. Men w wear pink shirts mean they don't care about ot people's opinion.

"The more people start to confront color, more they like to reveal the colors of their in beauty," says Sani.

E-mail Paola Sani at hcw.uyuni@pal-onl.c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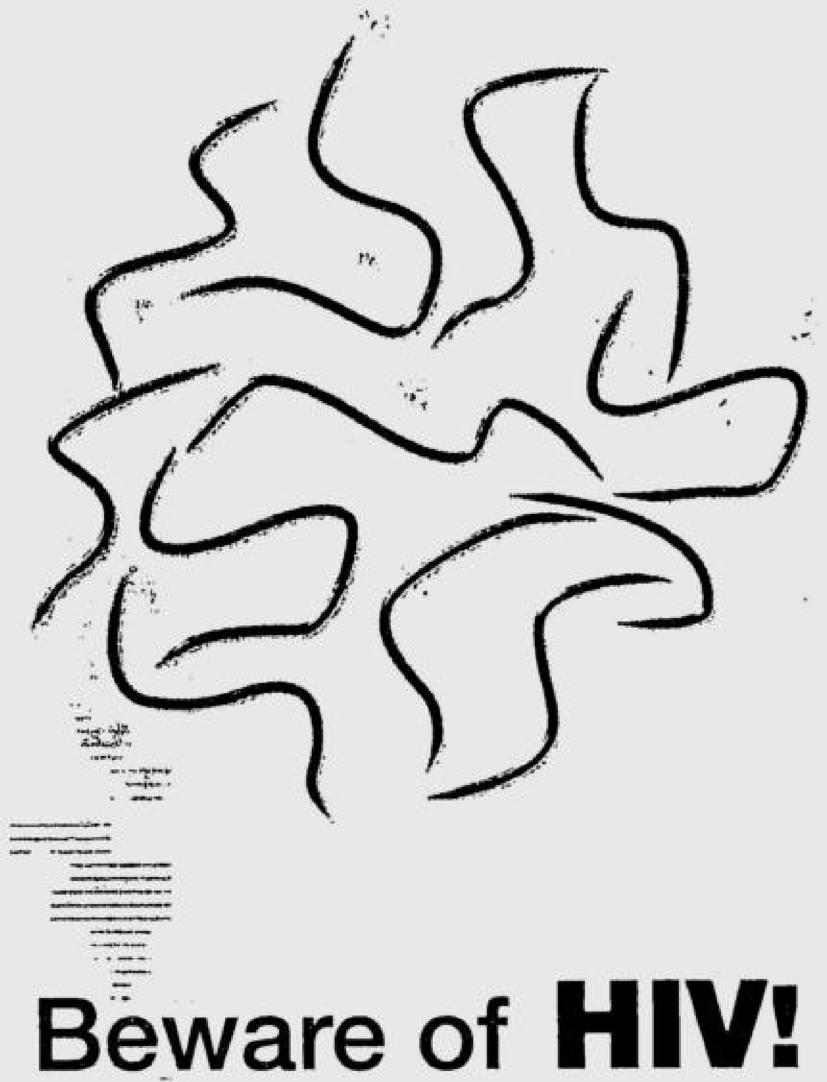


Beware of **HIV!**

If your **Hair Is Vanishing**, huwag mabahala! Isang tawag lang ang solusyon:

Call the Regroe Company
817-33-03

Don't be a joke forever!

Arabohok. Shaggylid lang ang buhok. BMW (buhok mo wig). AGA nalagas.

Have you, at one time or another been called one of these cute but hurtful taunts? Leave it to the Filipino to come up with funny jeers. But if you examine it a little closer, these nicknames, though often said in jest are anything but funny. The truth is losing one's hair is never funny.

The painful fact is, if you're age 25 up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible stage of baldness. In fact due to the prevalence of baldness, many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately most of them just don't work. They can also cause harmful side effects.

Good thing there are scientifically-tested and highly-effective hair growth formula available today. One of these is Minoxidil Regroe. Regroe is a result of years of study in the U.S. and is one of the few medications that has proven its efficacy. Eighty percent of users have grown their hair back in 6 months. While results vary from case to case- some start to grow their hair back as early as two months-most of the users are satisfied with the product. At the first month of use, falling hair stops. At two months, new hair starts to grow. At 6 months, all lost hair would have been recovered. That is how effective Regroe is.

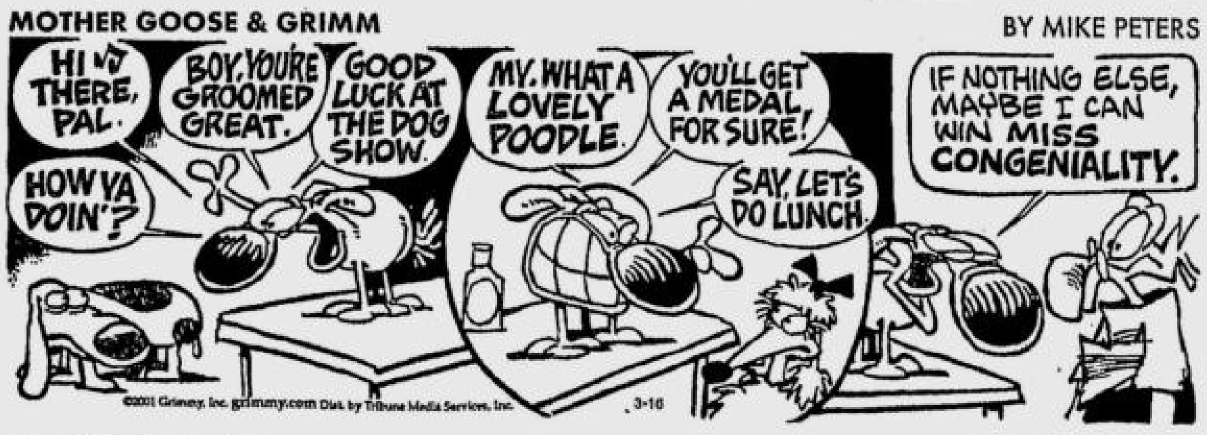
Arabohok? AGA nalagas? Don't be a joke forever. You can do something about your hair loss. Act now before it's too late-- call the Regroe Hotline.

RETURN COUPON
For more information on effective hair growth, send this coupon to VBP Group of Companies, 5/F Champaca Bldg., Amorsolo St., Makati City
NAME ____
ADDRESS ____

COMIC Relief

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HI THERE, PAL.
HOW YA DOIN'?
BOY, YOU'RE GROOMED GREAT.
GOOD LUCK AT THE DOG SHOW.
MY, WHAT A LOVELY POODLE.
YOU'LL GET A MEDAL, FOR SURE!
SAY, LET'S DO LUNCH.
IF NOTHING ELSE, MAYBE I CAN WIN MISS CONGENIALITY.
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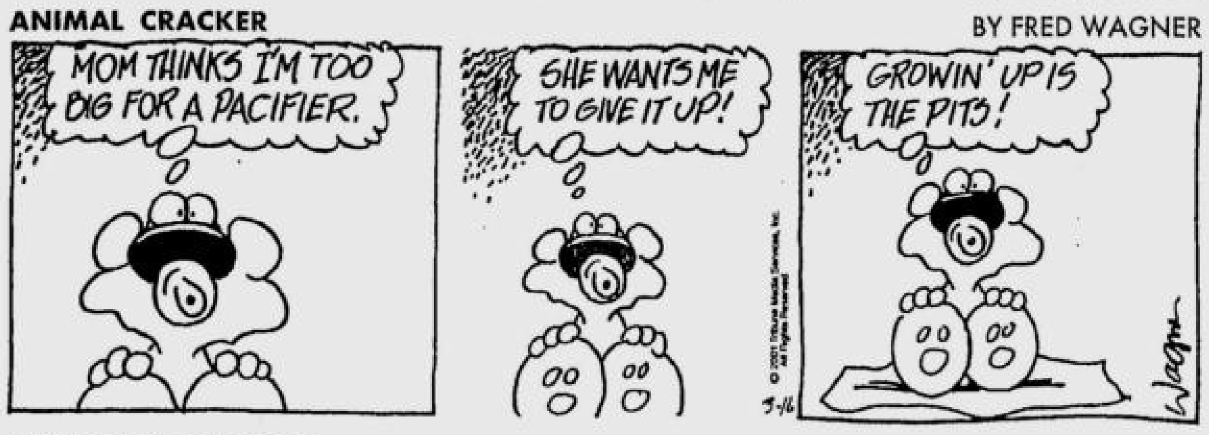
3-16

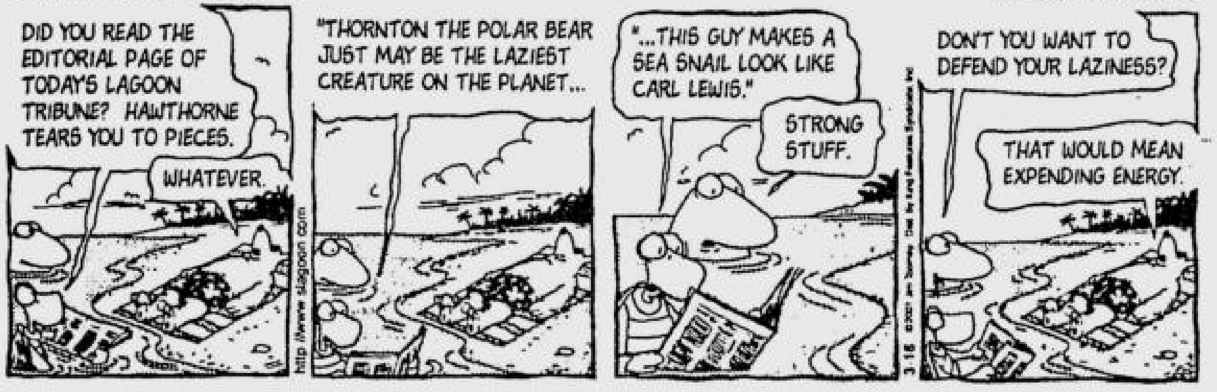
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


MOM THINKS I'M TOO BIG FOR A PACIFIER.
SHE WANTS ME TO GIVE IT UP!
GROWIN' UP IS THE PITS!
3-16
Wagner

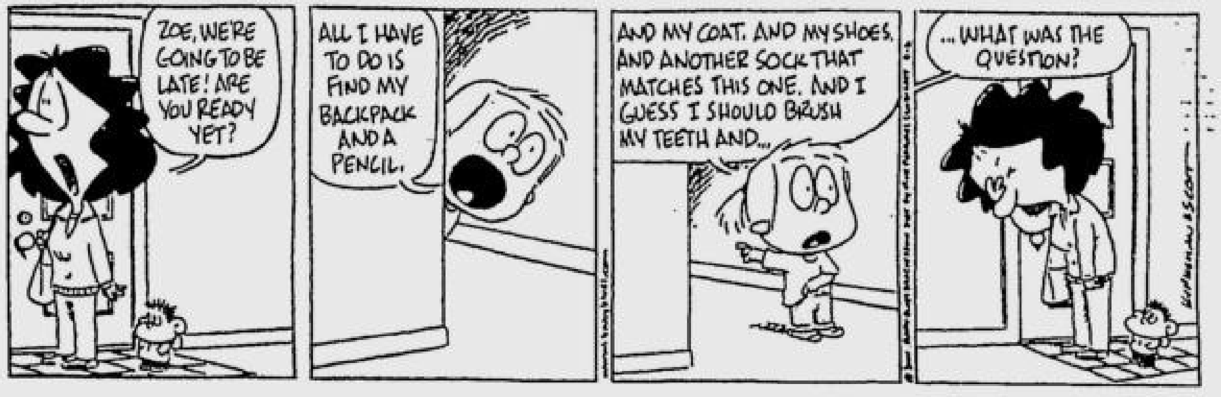
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


DID YOU READ THE EDITORIAL PAGE OF TODAY'S LAGOON TRIBUNE? HAWTHORNE TEARS YOU TO PIECES.
WHATEVER.
"THORNTON THE POLAR BEAR JUST MAY BE THE LAZIEST CREATURE ON THE PLANET...
"...THIS GUY MAKES A SEA SNAIL LOOK LIKE CARL LEWIS."
STRONG STUFF.
DON'T YOU WANT TO DEFEND YOUR LAZINESS?
THAT WOULD MEAN EXPENDING ENERGY.
http://www.slagoon.com
3-18

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE, WE'RE GOING TO BE LATE! ARE YOU READY YET?
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND MY BACKPACK AND A PENCIL.
AND MY COAT. AND MY SHOES. AND ANOTHER SOCK THAT MATCHES THIS ONE. AND I GUESS I SHOULD BRUSH MY TEETH AND...
...WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Audrey Hepburn, Randy Travis, Nickolas Ashford, Stella Parton, George Will

Happy Birthday: If you face facts and don't let anyone get away with anything, you will move forward in a positive direction. Let go of the past and those who are holding you back. This is the year to live for yourself and get the results that you want. Your numbers: 3, 10, 12, 22, 28, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Socializing with colleagues will lead to better rapport at work. Friendships are fine, but don't become intimate with a co-worker. Rumors will be damaging to your position.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Volunteer to help an organization that you believe in. New friendships will develop at the functions you attend. You can make some personal changes to enhance your looks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can do well with real estate sales, but expect opposition. Not everyone in your household will be in favor of the changes you are proposing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be original in your correspondence, especially when it involves someone you love. Take care of the needs of those who depend on you. Pleasure trips will be successful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You must concentrate on your career. It is crucial that you don't miss any opportunity that comes your way. Your emotional involvement with a colleague will backfire if you haven't been honest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Loosen up. Concentrate on enhancing your looks and your appeal. It's time you started to enjoy life. Join in activities that will expand your circle of friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Secret affairs will not be in your best interests. Take the time to make your home environment better. Changes will be necessary if you wish to keep things amiable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Group activities will lead to business opportunities and romantic connections. You will gain valuable knowledge through those you talk to. Go after your personal and professional goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your involvement in other people's affairs will not turn out as planned. Don't put your trust in individuals going through an unstable period. You'll be blamed for their problems.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Travel will be to your benefit. You will learn easily if you attend seminars that interest you. Be honest and tell those who have been meddling in your affairs that you don't appreciate it.

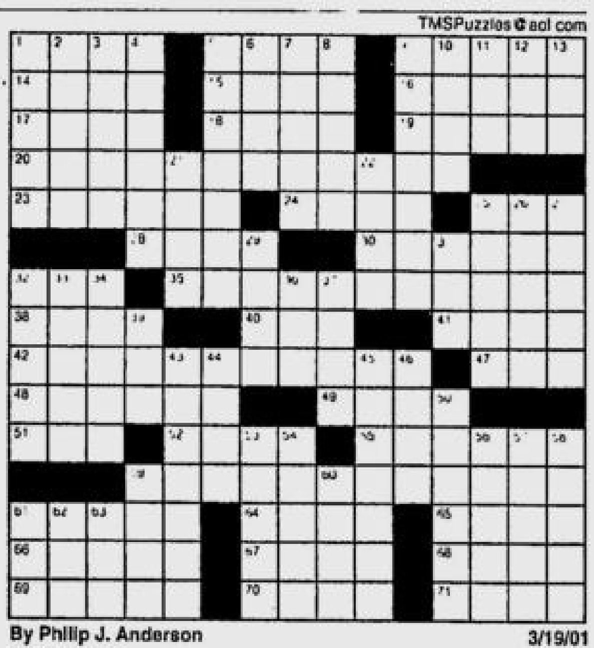
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have to deal with the backload of personal papers you've neglected for so long. Take your time; you don't want to make a costly mistake when it comes to your financial affairs.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be able to mesmerize your mate for a while but don't try to pull the wool over his or her eyes. You're likely to be dropped if you aren't honest.

Birthday Baby: You are a loving individual who has goodwill and insight. You will always lend a helping hand and protect loved ones. You do not do well when faced with disharmony and will strive to keep the peace.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



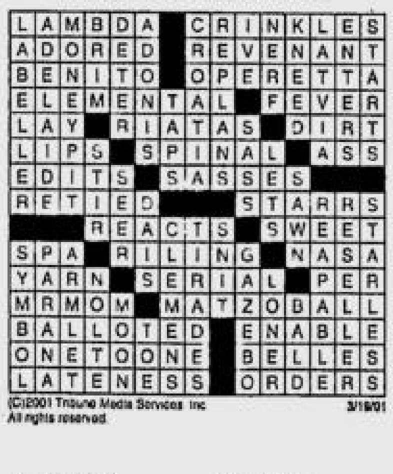
By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

3/19/01

ACROSS
1 Dean Martin's detective Matt
5 Pack down tightly
9 Beginning
14 Blue-green
15 Israeli airline
16 Spirals
17 Baseball scores
18 Sorvino of "Mighty Aphrodite"
19 Golfer Palmer
20 Object strenuously
23 Area of influence
24 Pueblo people
25 Network of "Frontline"
28 Kind of brake
30 Set among
32 Branch
35 Compromise
38 Mets' milieu
40 Fuss
41 "Bus Stop" dramatist
42 Study
47 __ Paulo
48 Make beloved
49 Friends and acquaintances
51 Lon __ of Cambodia
52 Catholic service
55 Liz or Rip
59 Gab
61 Mark new prices
64 New Rochelle college
65 High time?
66 Peace goddess
67 Prince of ponds?
68 Last Stuart monarch
69 Horses' dos
70 Actor Parker
71 Dates

DOWN
1 Listens to attentively
2 Furnish
3 Bite at 12
4 Wearing a domino
5 Violent outburst
6 Inter __ (among others)
7 Fen
8 "Phaedo" writer
9 Sweet potato
10 Average
11 Moral misdeed
12 Actor Wallach
13 Half of a fly?
21 "Mila 18" writer
22 Ron Howard role
25 Hammer heads
26 "Kiss of the Spider Woman" star Sonia
27 Pope who negotiated with Attila
29 Sidling crustacean?
31 R. Reagan's Star Wars
32 Deathly pale
33 Tanklike animal
34 Tin or iron
36 Bridal vow
37 Weirdo
39 $ dispenser
43 Tributes
44 Part of Q.E.D.
45 Knapsacks
46 Lead player
50 Serengeti predators
53 Constrained
54 Beach
56 Sierra __
57 Ultraviolet filter
58 Coty and Clair
59 Cause of ruin
60 Son of Seth
61 Dish edge
62 Period
63 Bo's number

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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LAMBDA■CRINKLES
ADORED■REVENANT
BENITO■OPERETTA
ELEMENTAL■FEVER
LAY■RIATAS■DIRT
LIPS■SPINAL■ASS
EDITS■SASSES■■■
RETIED■■■STARRS
■■■REACTS■SWEET
SPA■RILING■NASA
YARN■SERIAL■PER
MRMOM■MATZOBALL
BALLOTED■ENABLE
ONETOONE■BELLES
LATENESS■ORDERS
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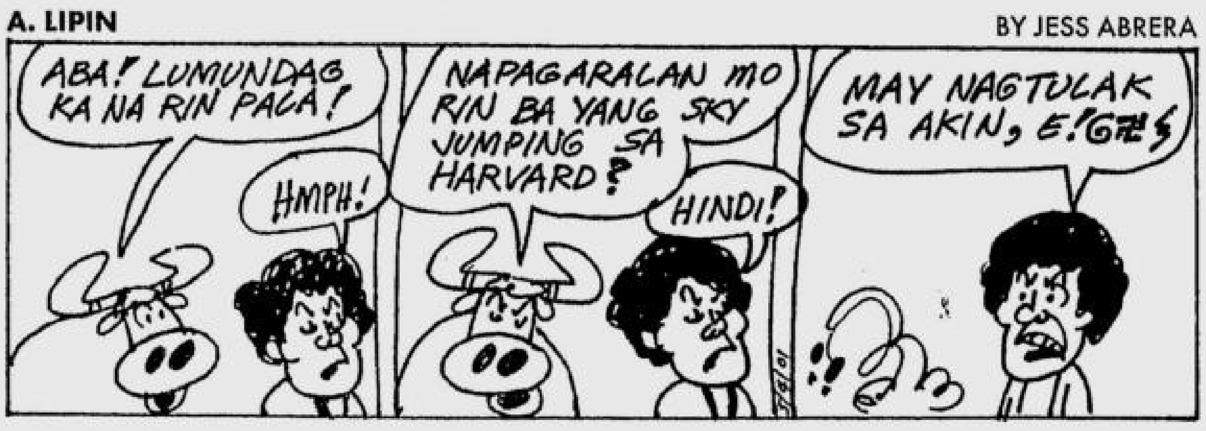
3/19/01

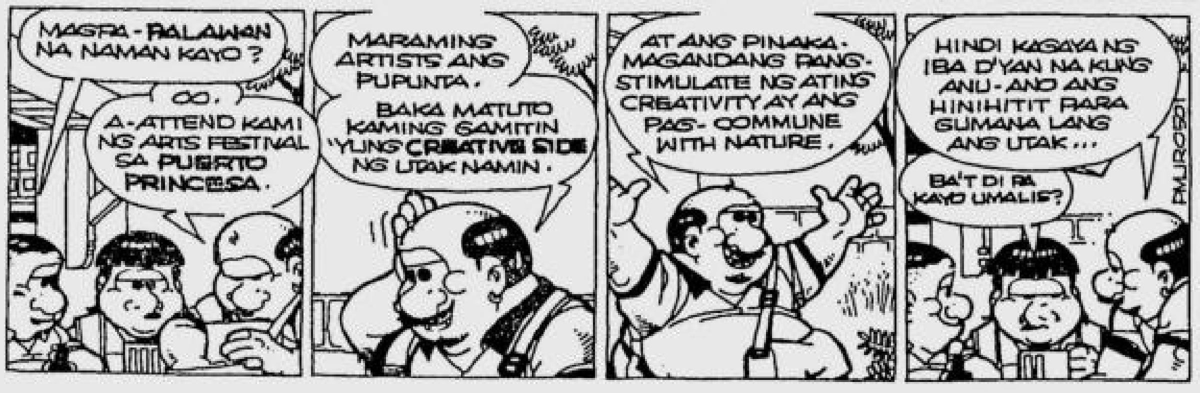
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ABA! LUMUNDAG KA NA RIN PALA!
HMPH!
NAPAGARALAN MO RIN BA YANG SKY JUMPING SA HARVARD?
HINDI!
MAY NAGTULAK SA AKIN, E!

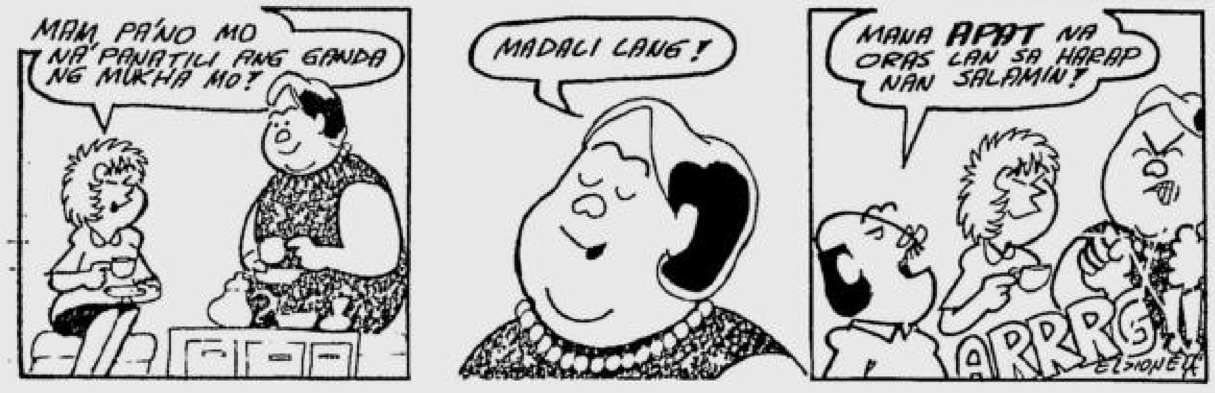
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGPA-PALAWAN NA NAMAN KAYO?
OO.
A-ATTEND KAMI NG ARTS FESTIVAL SA PUERTO PRINCESA.
MARAMING ARTISTS ANG PUPUNTA.
BAKA MATUTO KAMING GAMITIN 'YUNG CREATIVE SIDE NG UTAK NAMIN.
AT ANG PINAKA-MAGANDANG PANG-STIMULATE NG ATING CREATIVITY AY ANG PAG-COMMUNE WITH NATURE.
HINDI KAGAYA NG IBA D'YAN NA KUNG ANU-ANO ANG HINIHITIT PARA GUMANA LANG ANG UTAK...
BA'T DI PA KAYO UMALIS?
PMJR05

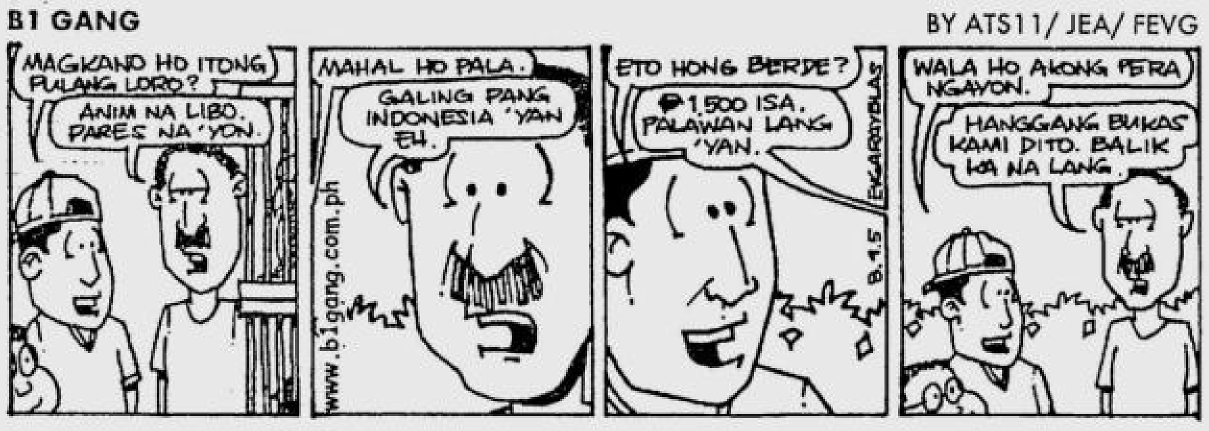
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAM, PA'NO MO NA PANATILI ANG GANDA NG MUKHA MO?
MADALI LANG!
MGA APAT NA ORAS LANG SA HARAP NANG SALAMIN!
ARRRG!
E.DIONELA

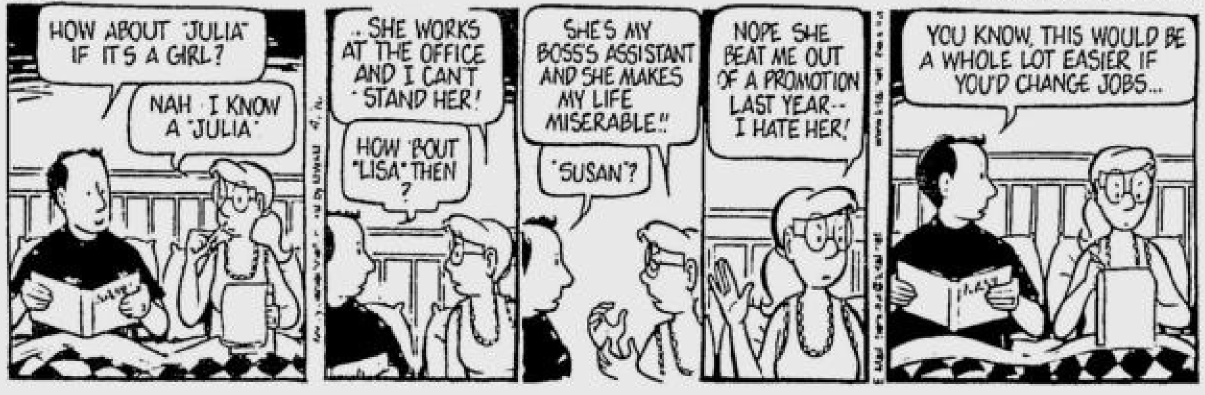
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


MAGKANO HO ITONG PULANG LORO?
ANIM NA LIBO. PARES NA 'YON.
MAHAL HO PALA.
GALING PANG INDONESIA 'YAN EH.
www.b1gang.com.ph
ETO HONG BERDE?
₱1,500 ISA. PALAWAN LANG 'YAN.
B.4.5
WALA HO AKONG PERA NGAYON.
HANGGANG BUKAS KAMI DITO. BALIK KA NA LANG.

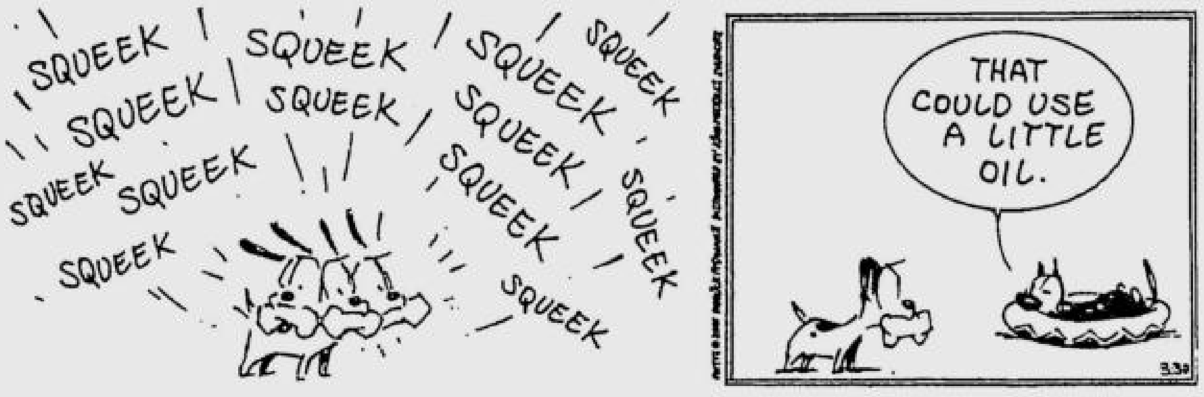
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HOW ABOUT "JULIA" IF IT'S A GIRL?
NAH. I KNOW A "JULIA"
...SHE WORKS AT THE OFFICE AND I CAN'T STAND HER!
HOW 'BOUT "LISA" THEN?
SHE'S MY BOSS'S ASSISTANT AND SHE MAKES MY LIFE MISERABLE!
"SUSAN"?
NOPE. SHE BEAT ME OUT OF A PROMOTION LAST YEAR-- I HATE HER!
YOU KNOW, THIS WOULD BE A WHOLE LOT EASIER IF YOU'D CHANGE JOBS...

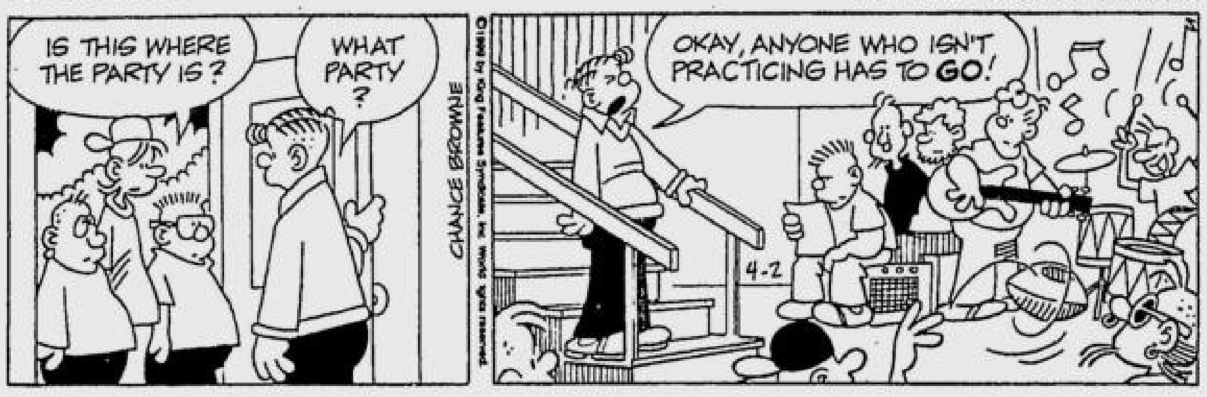
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
SQUEEK
THAT COULD USE A LITTLE OIL.
3-30

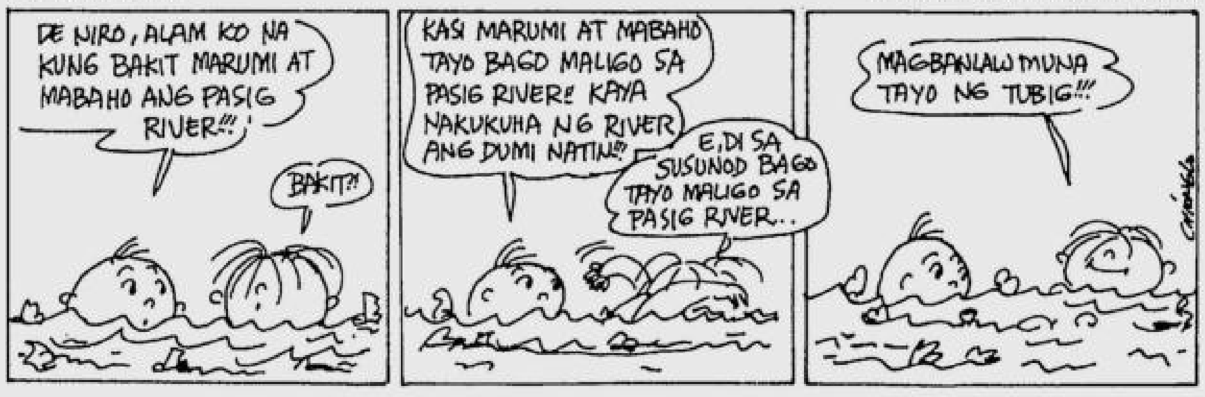
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IS THIS WHERE THE PARTY IS?
WHAT PARTY?
CHANCE BROWNE
OKAY, ANYONE WHO ISN'T PRACTICING HAS TO GO!
4-2

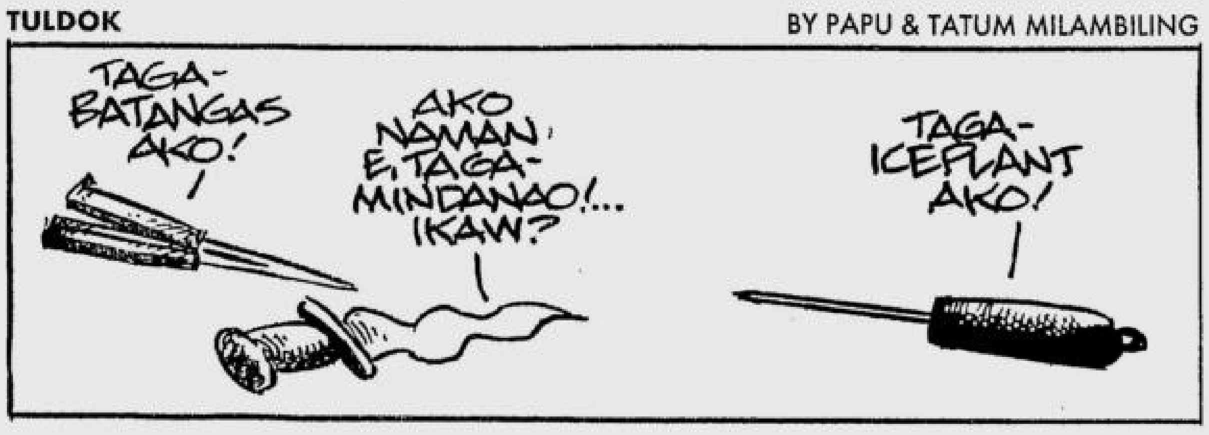
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

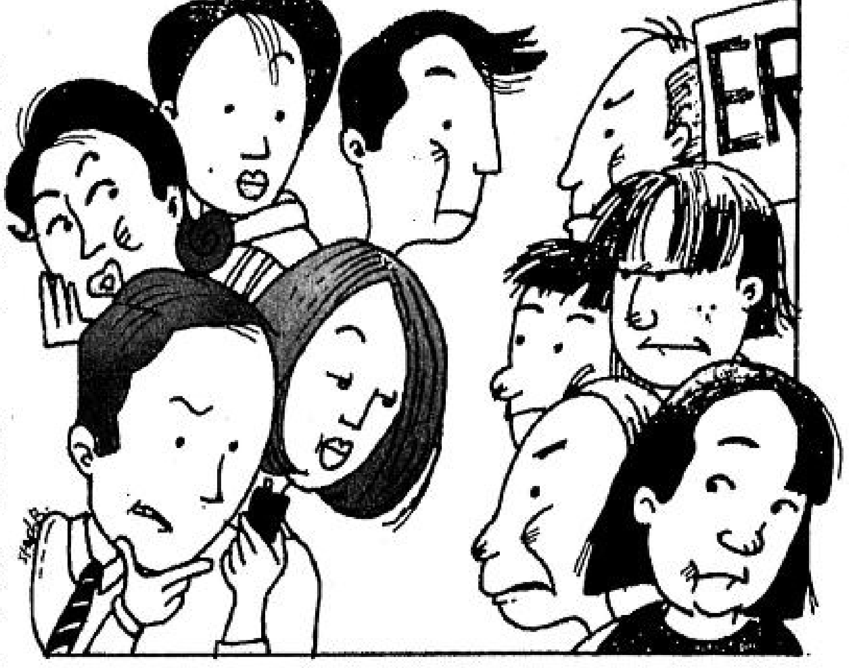

DE NIRO, ALAM KO NA KUNG BAKIT MARUMI AT MABAHO ANG PASIG RIVER!!!
BAKIT?!
KASI MARUMI AT MABAHO TAYO BAGO MALIGO SA PASIG RIVER! KAYA NAKUKUHA NG RIVER ANG DUMI NATIN!!
E, DI SA SUSUNOD BAGO TAYO MALIGO SA PASIG RIVER...
MAGBANLAW MUNA TAYO NG TUBIG!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


TAGA-BATANGAS AKO!
AKO NAMAN E, TAGA-MINDANAO!... IKAW?
TAGA-ICEPLANT AKO!

The poor that everyone 'cares for' finally gets to Edsa



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

(From page D3)

just very angry people provoked by words of politicians, brainwashed with promises by those who aspire to hold office or hold on to their power, pushed by personal and social despair. They looked enraged as they marched on the streets leading to the Palace as if possessed by demons that rose from the sewers and the garbage heaps where they define their living.

This was another face of people feeling empowerment.

Filipinos like us

Reality check needed here. A wake-up call, perhaps? There are some things we have to accept... the pill we have to swallow is bitter and big. These folks who gathered in Edsa and marched to Malacañang are also Filipinos.

Yes, they are our countrymen who, for years—no, generations—have been disenfranchised and swept under the rug by the selective vision of the privileged and the comfortable.

We make such a big deal of the stench and the litter they left behind at Edsa, but we never considered that a great number of the poor have to live every day of their lives amid such odors and subhuman conditions. We condemn organized religions for mobilizing their communities to participate in this event yet we have also responded to the same call when the Catholic Church beckoned us to be there in February of 1986 and January of 2001. So why should we be upset? In a land where despair is widespread, political correctness and discretion seem so arbitrary and relative. Faith plays an even more important role in giving a sense of order or reason to existence.

While we pooh-pooh them to death, those who held the microphones onstage aimed bullets at us using our own words. We called them worms and they were angered, infuriated by the indecency of prejudice and discrimination. We yelled that they have no right to be there, that they defiled our sacred landmark, but hasn't it been said that the poor are more blessed? If they showed ignorance, carelessness and lack of respect, then we should have been more compassionate and tried to understand the reasons behind their ignorance, carelessness and maybe deliberate lack of respect.

They are Filipinos. While we may be bathed and scented with our favorite cologne, we have the same color of blood and share the same citizenship with them. We call them indecent and despicable because what we stand for is honest and pristine love of country. Yet how can we make this ennobling claim and make ourselves heroes when we carelessly, if not maliciously, utter statements that only prove that we can be so *mata-pobre*?

Taking the bad with the good

We cannot love our country only for its scenic sights and lofty ambitions. We must love our country in spite and because of its problems. The country includes all the eyesores that we conveniently whitewash or keep away from our peripheral vision by surrounding our homes with high walls and posting security guards 24 hours a day at strategic gates. The country includes the millions mired in poverty who do not only require the power of our prayers but the immediacy of our attention.

We shuddered at the madness of their attack. But this was despair personified. This was provoked not only by the charming and manipulative words of politicians but by years of anger, frustration and neglect. Regardless of how we perceive them from a comfortable distance, these men and women are also fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. Each one of them has a story to tell.

We are so clean. We are so pure. We are so morally upright. We struggle to rid our nation of all the germs, all the infections that create cancerous corruption. We want a beautiful society where right and wrong are defined by clear-cut line. Yet when pushed to the edge, when confronted by the rawness and brutality of reality, we retreat to our jokes and condescension. It is so much easier to wear the cloak of moral and intellectual superiority, to make grand statements and to look away from anything that disturbs us and shakes us back to the real world in the here and now.

It is obscene to bask on how good we think we are. We refuse to call this event "People Power III" or "Edsa III" because we accuse them of being *hakot* and *bayaran.* But we have not tried to find the answer to the bigger and more important question: why. Why were they there? What gave them the courage to do the unthinkable?

If they were mere pawns of political and strategic machinations, why did they submit themselves all too easily? Why did they allow themselves to be herded and paid? Why did they march to Malacañang knowing it was their lives at stake? How did they come to be what they have become? How many promises have been broken? What degree of despair pushed them to join this throng regardless of what means of transportation they used, how much they get paid or how many free meals they can consume? Did they know what they were fighting for? Were they fighting for their very existence?

It does not matter what you brand the event, whatever you or they might want to call it. The point was the overwhelming crowds were there—at Edsa and on the streets to Malacañang.

We boasted of our numbers. But when they showed their number, they turned out to be so much more.

We think we know all the answers... but do we know the real questions?

It is time to stop pushing your cell phone keys and start listening to people. Better yet, it is time to stop all the politics and start the more important job of governance. And maybe, for the best, it is time to smell the stench, plod through the garbage and examine the lives of those who must exist amid the heap.

We've had enough speeches. We've heard enough plans. We've swallowed enough platitudes. Let's get to work.

Globe's Gentxt program wins Anvil Award

THE GENTXT program of Globe Telecom recently won an Anvil Award of Merit from the Public Relations Society of the Phils. (PRSP) during the public relations organization's recent 36th Anvil Awards ceremonies.

GenTxt is known as the passport of young Globe Handyphone subscribers to a higher level of fun, parties and adventures, discounts and gimmicks. Through the highly popular program, Globe provides exclusive perks and privileges to its growing number of members, as well as exciting activities and events.

All in all, Globe Telecom marked a significant year by winning a total of four Anvil Awards this year. Aside from its GenTxt program, Globe Telecom also won two Anvil Awards of Excellence for its magazine, The Globe Spectrum, and its outreach program for Payatas and a Special Anvil Award for its Y2K information campaign.

Wash & Wax
WELLA
WELLA BALSAM
200mL

Introducing
WELLA
BALSAM
SHAMPOO
with NATURAL
FRUIT WAXES

Blowdrying, frequent brushing and everyday exposure to the elements can leave your hair dry, dull and lifeless.

You need the intensive protection of new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes.

A natural ingredient found in the peel of fruits like apples, grapes and oranges, the fruit waxes blended in the new Wella Balsam Shampoo contains microcrystals that coat each hair strand. These help protect your hair against damage from the sun, wind and the stresses of your daily routine. So your hair grows healthy with a lively, lustrous shine.

Get the protective wash and wax treatment of new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes, and let nothing harm your hair.

Available in shampoo and conditioner (100 and 200mL) and Intensive Conditioning Treatment (125g and 500g).

Watch out for the new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes Mall Tour at all SM Health & Beauty outlets from May 1-31, 2001.

Health & Beauty

WELLA

Beautiful hair needs an expert.

3 Spectacular saving days!

3-day Mega Sale

May 4•5•6

Save up to

50%

on selected items

mallwide

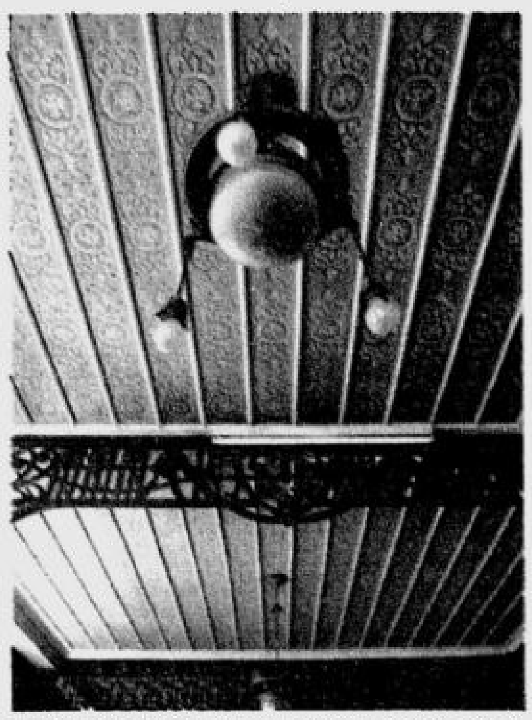
SM
MEGAMALL

EDSA corner Julia Vargas Ave., Mandaluyong City
Tel. #: 633-50-43 to 46

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1984-A3-004, Series of 2000.

80-year-old house survives in a concrete jungle

It's a perfect study for history lovers and architecture students



HANDCARVING, hand-painting, pastel colors and brass and frosted glass lighting cheer up the ceiling.

BY AVIE GOCHOCO-PEREZ
PHOTOS BY BOBOT MERU

THE MOMENT the grand dame of a well-known antique shop stepped into the house at 2008 Dominga St. in Pasay City, she was so awed that she declared, "I'm going to buy this house." The flustered owner gasped: "*Teka muna. Wala akong malilipatan*."

That was four years ago and Vicky Agtarap still owns the place. But she realizes that the house's 80-some years are beginning to show and nibbling at the architecture and workmanship that have made the property distinctive for three generations.

Besides, Vicky dreams of moving to the province to breathe fresher air. Whether with the house in tow, collapsed into small pieces, or with the proceeds from its sale tucked in the bank and its sentimental value locked in her memory,'the next few months would tell. Vicky, forever single, had retired from the Philippine Refining Corp. where she served for 30 years as secretary to whoever its president was.

The house is an unpretentious chalet type. In the book "Philippine Ancestral Houses," it is said that this type of house took over where the *bahay na bato* left off, retaining many of the latter's features.

The Agtarap house is partly hidden from street view by a wall, its occupants shielded from the busy old Manila street outside. Red stone steps and balusters with specks of white guide the visitor to a tiled patio that runs the entire width of the house façade.

An old wooden hat cum umbrella rack ("I remember my father always wore a hat," says Vicky) still stands beside the main entrance, double doors with grills and colored glass.

Once inside the house, one's eyes are drawn to the high ceiling ("*fresco, kasi ang taas ng kisame*," says Vicky). The ceiling is dressed in narrow panels of wood, hand-painted in the same design. A strip of *liston*, painted white, separates each panel. The ceiling looks like this throughout the house, the hand-painting varying only a bit in design and color.

The living room is large in proportion to the house, the two bedrooms and dining room spilling into it, which was often the case in the old days. The young Vicky and her brother and sister had shared one bedroom while their parents occupied the other. Both rooms are "small," much unlike their counterparts in modern homes.

Rarities in the bathroom

The lone bathroom cum toilet is surprisingly spacious. Its floors are done—like the front patio—in printed Machuca tiles in now rare black, gray and what must have been white but now off-white (San Sebastian Church had similar tiles, says Vicky). One side of the comfort room has a

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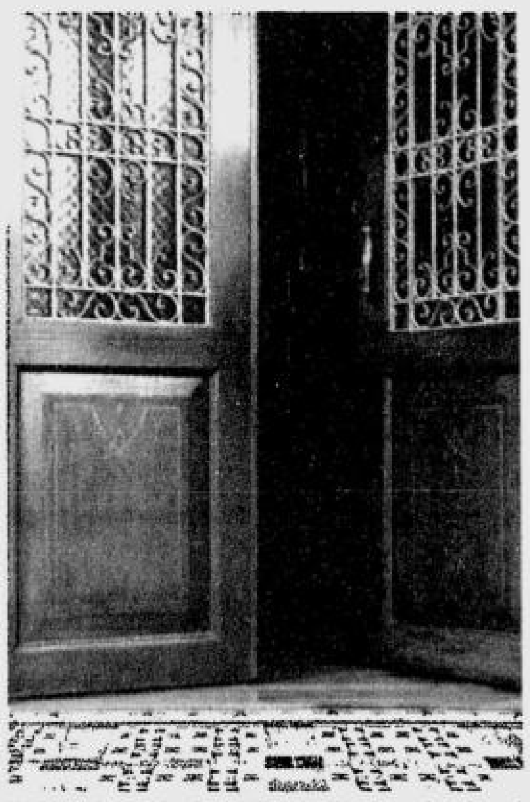

WOOD, iron, Machuca tiles and textured, colored glass welcome the visitor to the Agtarap home.

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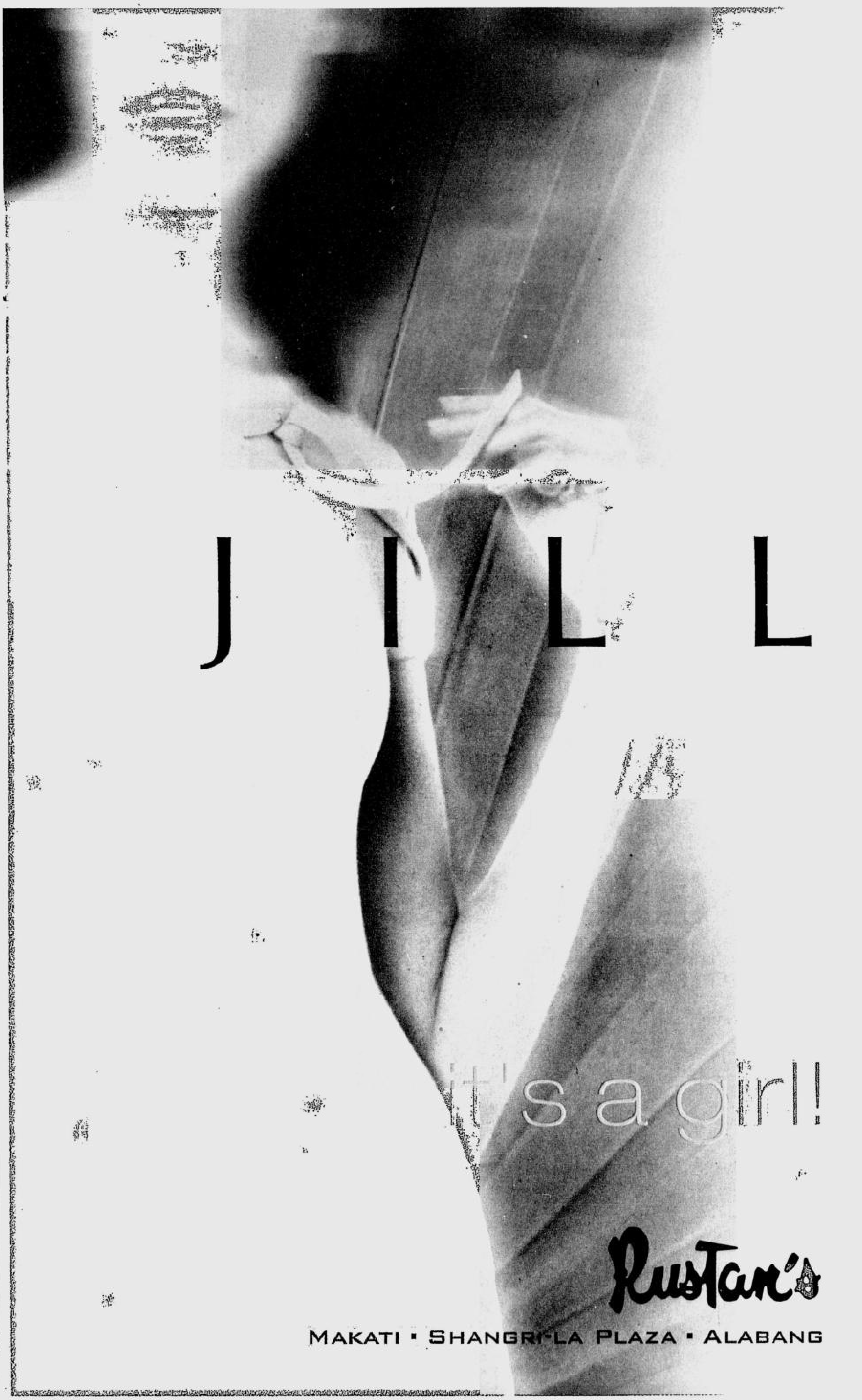
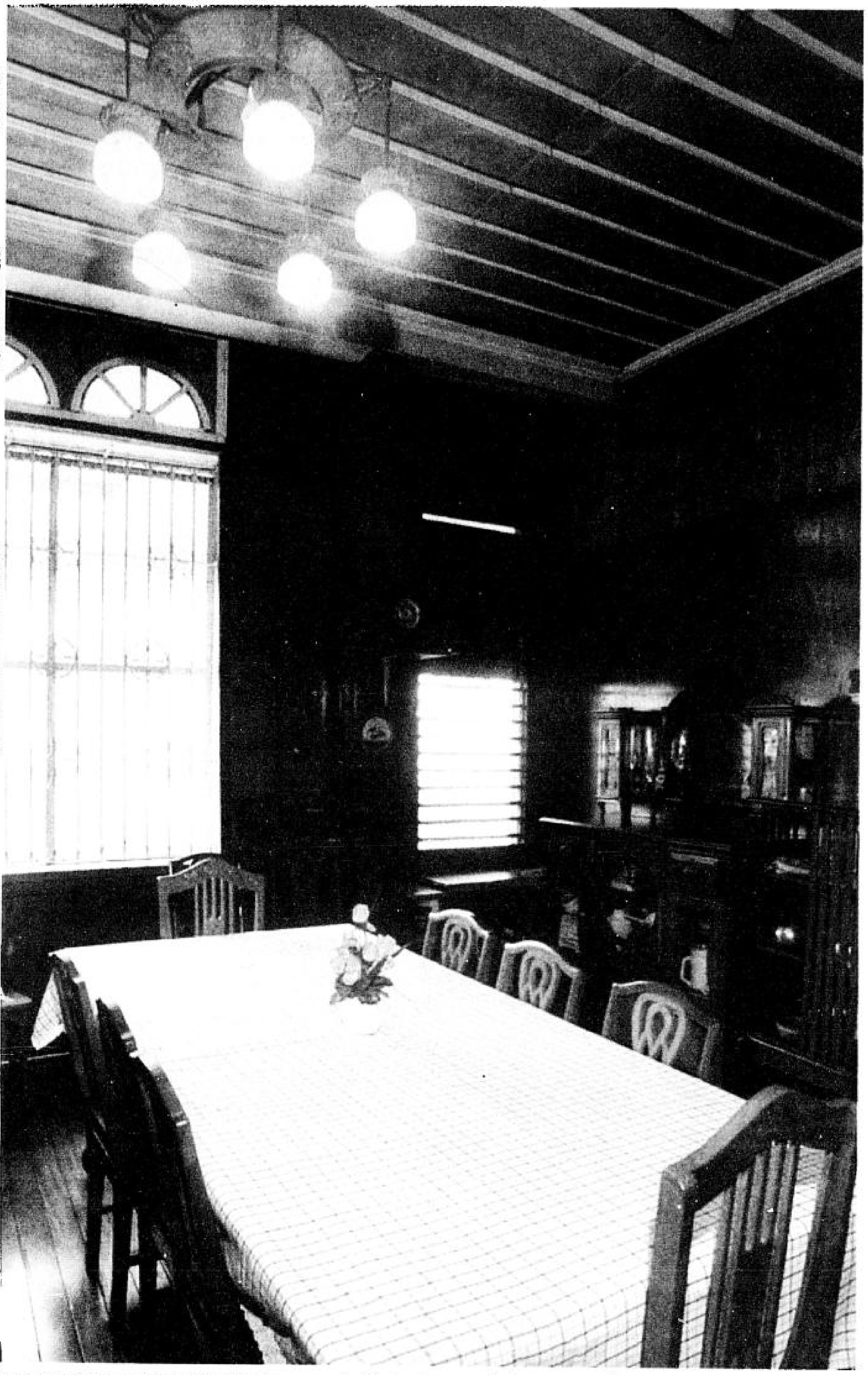


80-year-old house survives in a concrete jungle


THE DINING room window used to be covered with bamboo curtains but are now left bare to let light in. A five-bulb chandelier that is as old as the house provides more light.

(From page E1)

square white *lavabo.* Beside it is an old-fashioned cast iron freestanding claw-foot tub, a rarity these days. The other side of the room has the commode and a urinal for men.

Gleaming *molave* hardwood drapes the walls and tongue-and-groove *narra* planks grace the floor. The Agtarap home also has wraparound *ventanillas*, small windows underneath the sills of the big windows. These *ventanillas* have grills to let in more air, and are covered with sliding blank panel boards.

One side of,the dining room is adorned by a small 5 x 7-ft "mural." It depicts a countryside scene, something "copied from a calendar," Vicky recalls. "We got a deaf-mute to do the mural, just to help them earn a living." Through the window, one sees the carved edge of the tin *media agua* or window awnings. The design of the carved edge looks like a *parol* or Christmas lantern, with a star at the center. Vicky, however, is sure it's the Caltex star sign.

Beyond the dining room was the *banggera* where plates and glasses were washed and left to dry. Vicky also remembers an *azotea* or open porch there, where vines of Bridal Bouquet profusely cascaded from overhead during summer. Today, the *banggera* is gone. The porch became a bedroom for Vicky's father as the growing children needed more room.

Vicky's parents acquired the house as a newly married couple in 1930 from a Chinese who lost his fortune to gambling. "'*Natumba ang bangka,*' they said," Vicky recalls. "He was into *jueteng*. He lost everything. He went down the steps of the house with only his shirt on. *Pati ang mga kawali, nand'yan, iniwan niya.*" The unfortunate man sold his house, about 10 years old at that time, for P10,000. That seemed like a princely amount because, remembers Vicky, her daily *baon* to nearby St. Scholastica's College was only 10 centavos even years later, enough to buy a ham or chicken sandwich.

How was life like in the old days in this house? Vicky's face lights up.

Bamboo curtain

The windows had curtains of bamboo, properly aged before it was cut so it would not be eaten up by tiny woodborers. "*Putol sa panahon,*" Vicky says.

In the summer, "big, big mosquito nets" woven in Batangas, home province of Vicky's mother, were hoisted over "big, big *banig* (woven mats). "We pretended these were tents. My mother would even bring her rocking chair inside the *kulambo* (mosquito net), the better to watch us children," she adds.

"We always had a party for my mother on her birthday when she was still alive (she died in 1991). I would always have a caterer. She liked to doll herself up; she had mestiza features. Whenever she became cranky, I'd tease her, '*Sige kayo, hindi na kayo mukhang senyora.* Then she would perk up and say, '*Akin na ang polbo,*'" she recalls. Vicky laughingly says she probably did not marry because she was watching closely her mother who was widowed early, in her 50s. "I was afraid she might get married again," she chuckles.

The furniture of the past still graces the house. Two sides of an old (1939) cabinet serve as shoe rack. Its middle compartment used to be filled with coats. A wooden "dragon lamp," a floor lamp

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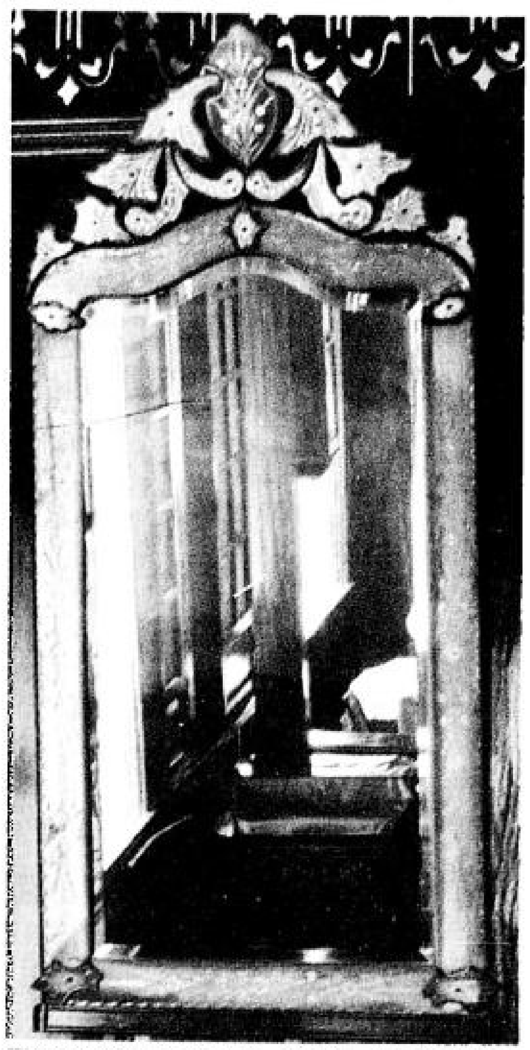
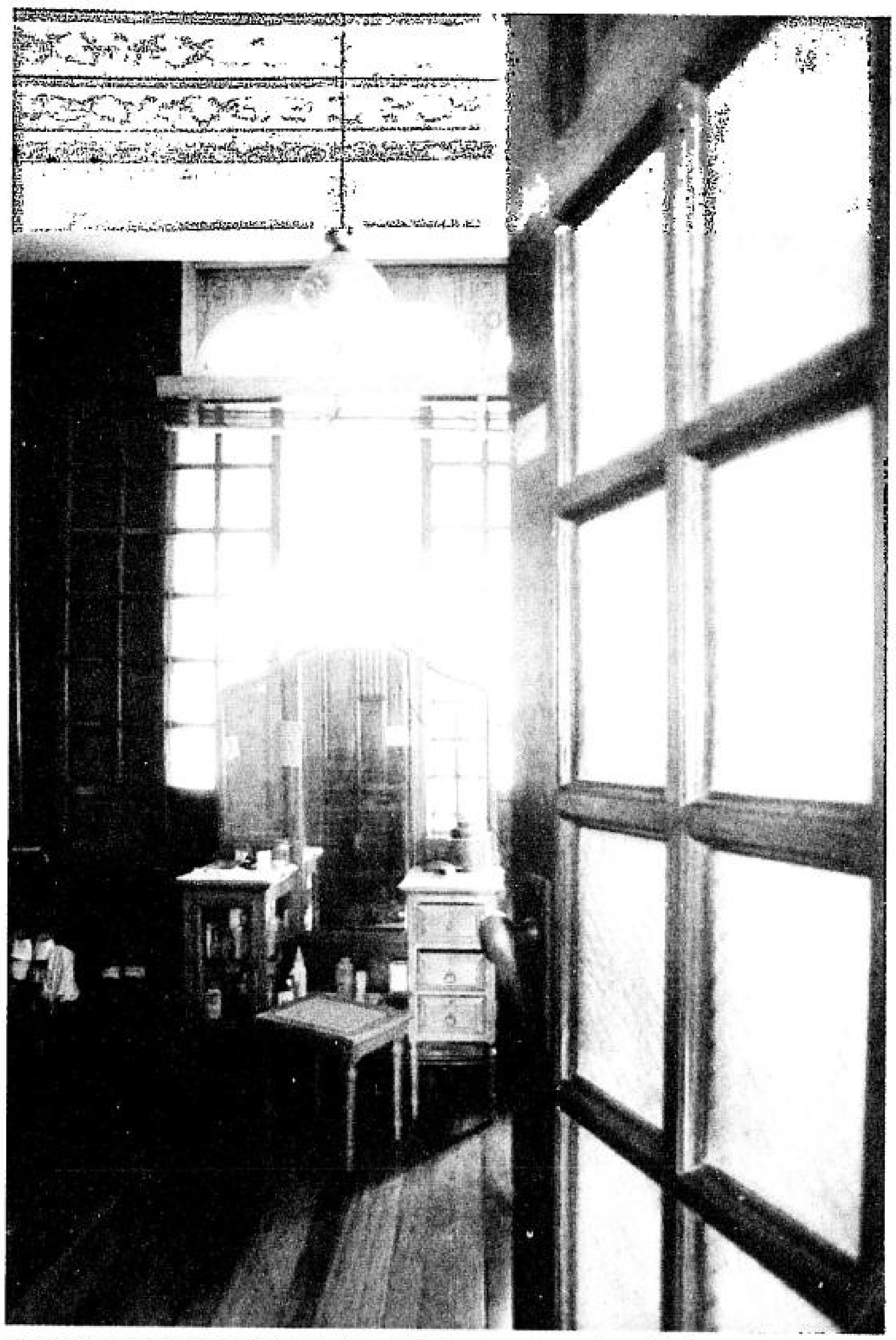

THE MIDDLE portion of this old Venetian mirror has been resilvered but repairmen refuse to touch the intricate, patterned edges.

THE MAIN entrance to the house, awash in sunlight and in detail. Note the classic design of the wood-on-wood inlay of the wall panels that match those of the doors.


THE TEXTURED glass-and-wood door, left ajar, reveals a not-so-old dresser in the master bedroom, along with the original hanging lamp and hand-painting on the ceiling and atop the arched transom.

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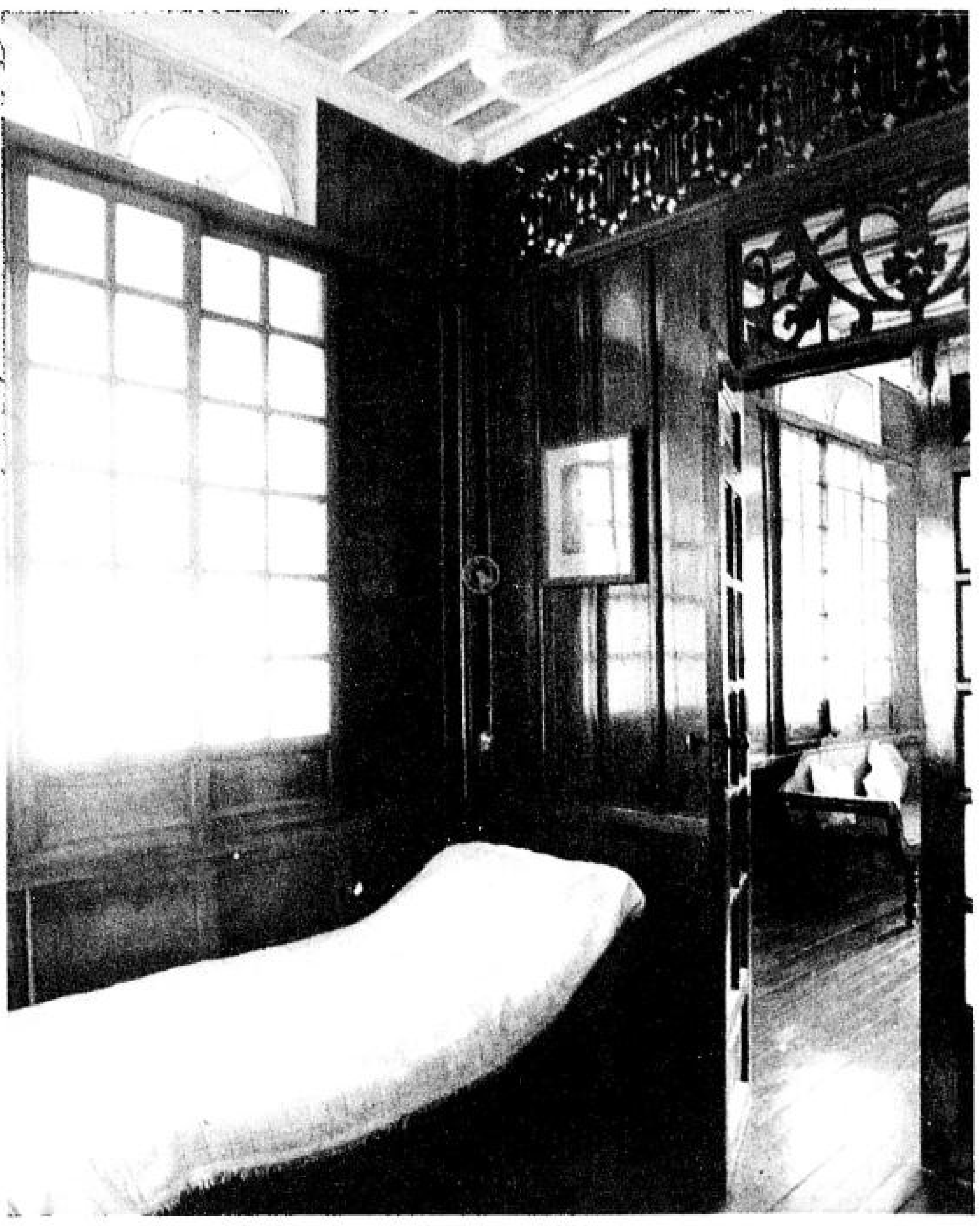


WHAT used to be the children's bedroom is separated from the living room by gleaming inlaid dark wood panels and wooden *calado* to let air flow freely between the two areas.

80-year-old house survives in a concrete jungle

(From page E2)

under which children used to do their homework, still stands in a corner of the sala. "A round table was here in the middle where we were told to do our homework," says Vicky.

During the war, the Agtaraps evacuated to Batangas and the Dominga Street house was rented out to the WACs—American nurses—from 1944 to the early '50s. After the nurses, a kindly woman was installed there for several years by a man whose love for her was forbidden. The compound, the man was certain, was ideal for his ladylove—quiet and safe. "*Maglalagay ako ng kontrabando diyan*," he told his landlords. The *kontrabando* turned out to be his ladylove.

As Vicky's father, Francisco, one of the country's first architects, was pushing 50 when he married, and her mother Margarita, nee Llana, was 34, the young Agtaraps were too young to enjoy stories told by their father of his experiences as a young boy.

Eyewitness to history unfolding

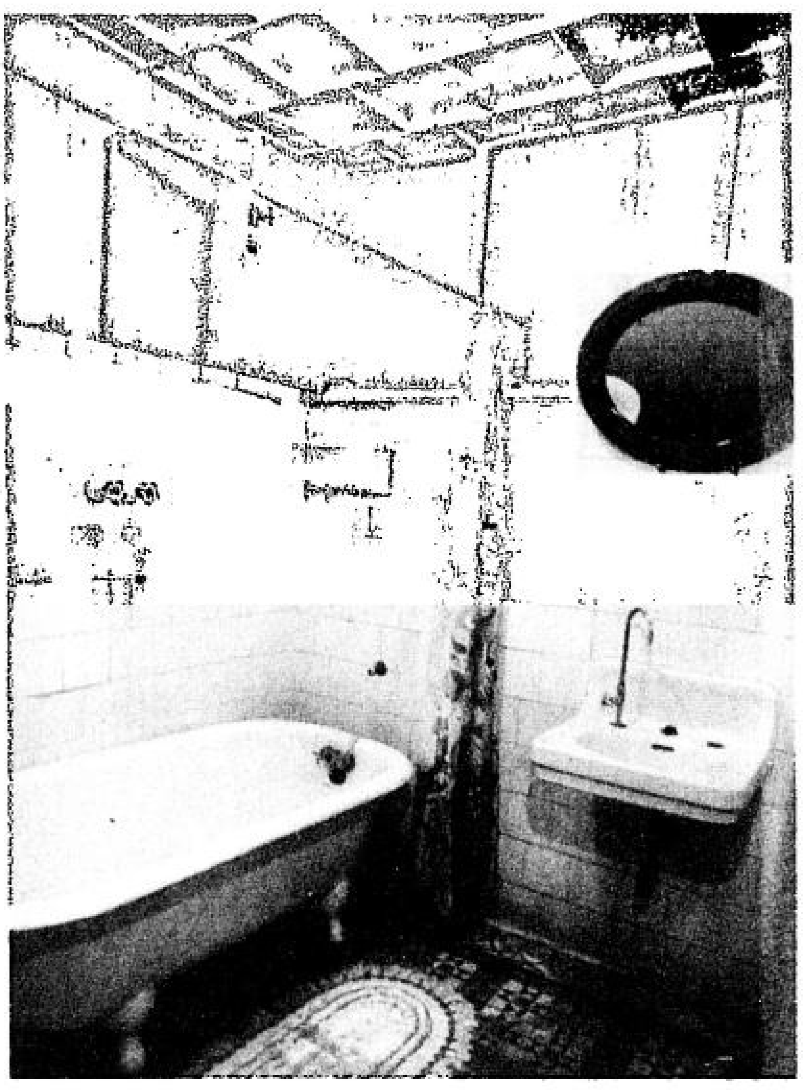
"My father would bring our older cousins to the movies because we were too young," she remembers. It limited their time to bond with each other. Still, there is one story she retells today about how her father saw our national hero today, Jose Rizal, shot at the then Luneta.

"My father was there. He was already in his teens because he was born in 1880. He says it was "early, early morning and there was the boom-boom-boom of drums ... All they knew *was 'may babarilin na tao.'* People gathered from everywhere, including Sampaloc where father lived.

"He watched how Rizal was shot, how Rizal turned around to face the bullets. For more than a week after that, he couldn't sleep," she remembers.

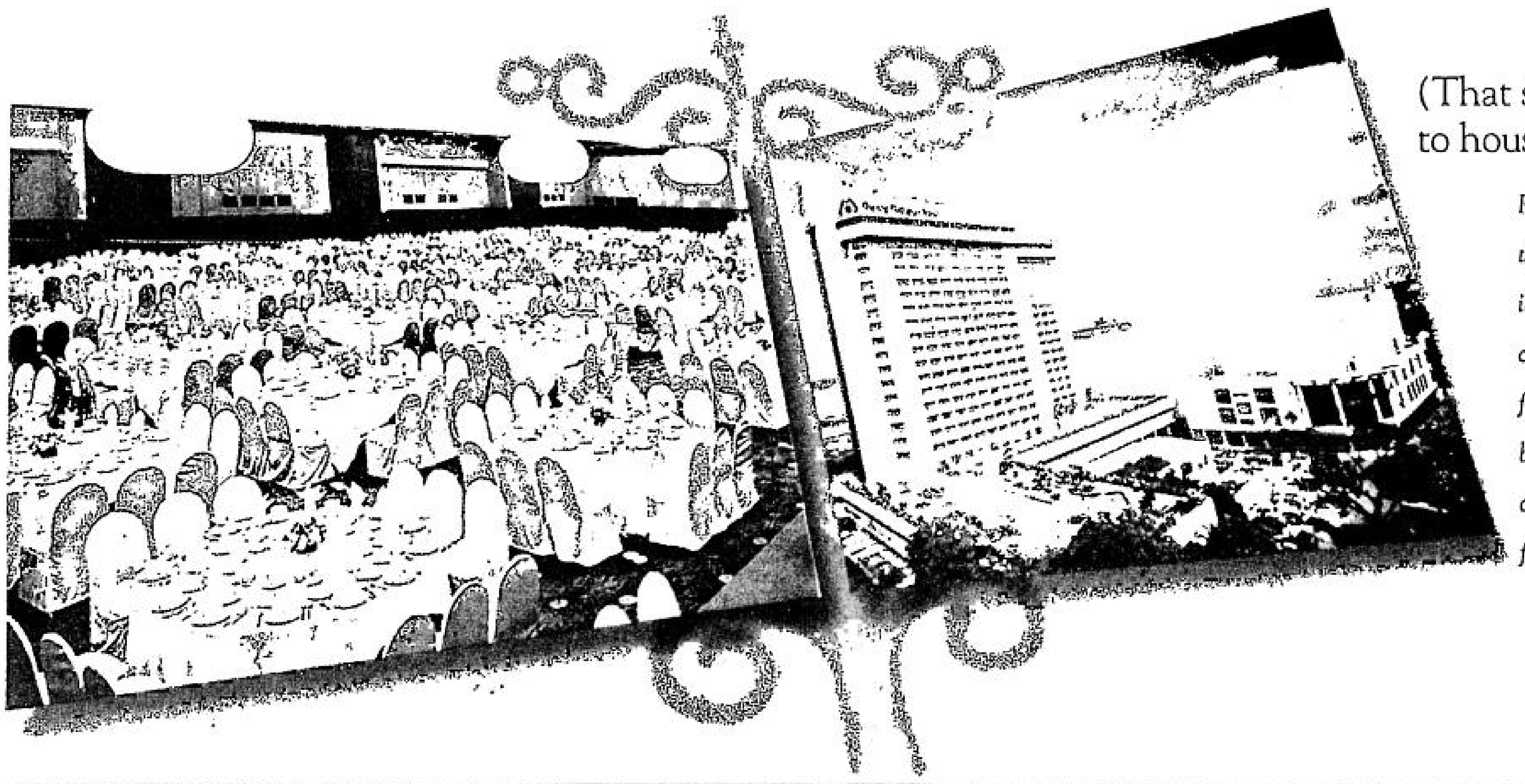
Vicky's life today in the old house starts early at 4 a.m. with daily prayers. She used to walk her dog daily all the way to the nearby San Isidro

80-YEAR/ p.E4



BATHROOM fixtures and tiles of old came only in pristine white, and Vicky's now-rare cast iron claw-foot tub is no exception.

Our grand ballroom is big enough to house the competition's.



(That should make it *big enough* to house your *conventions*.)

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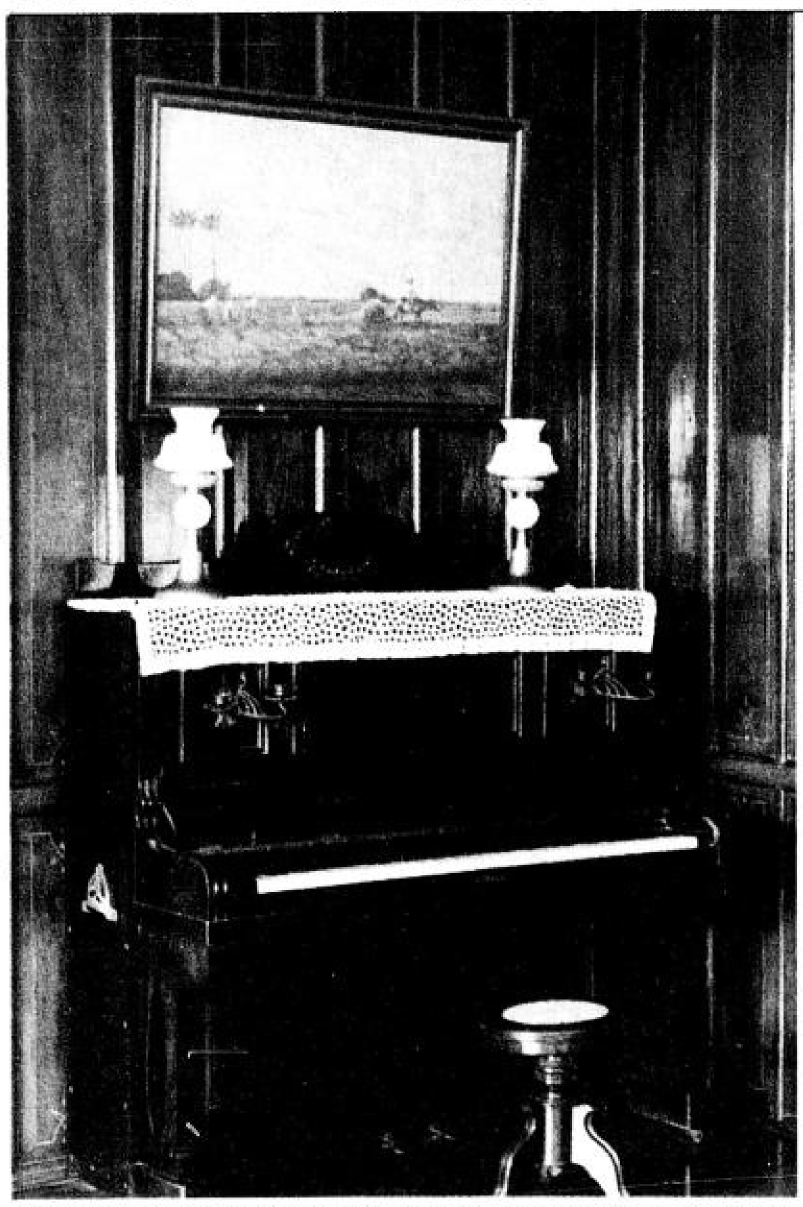
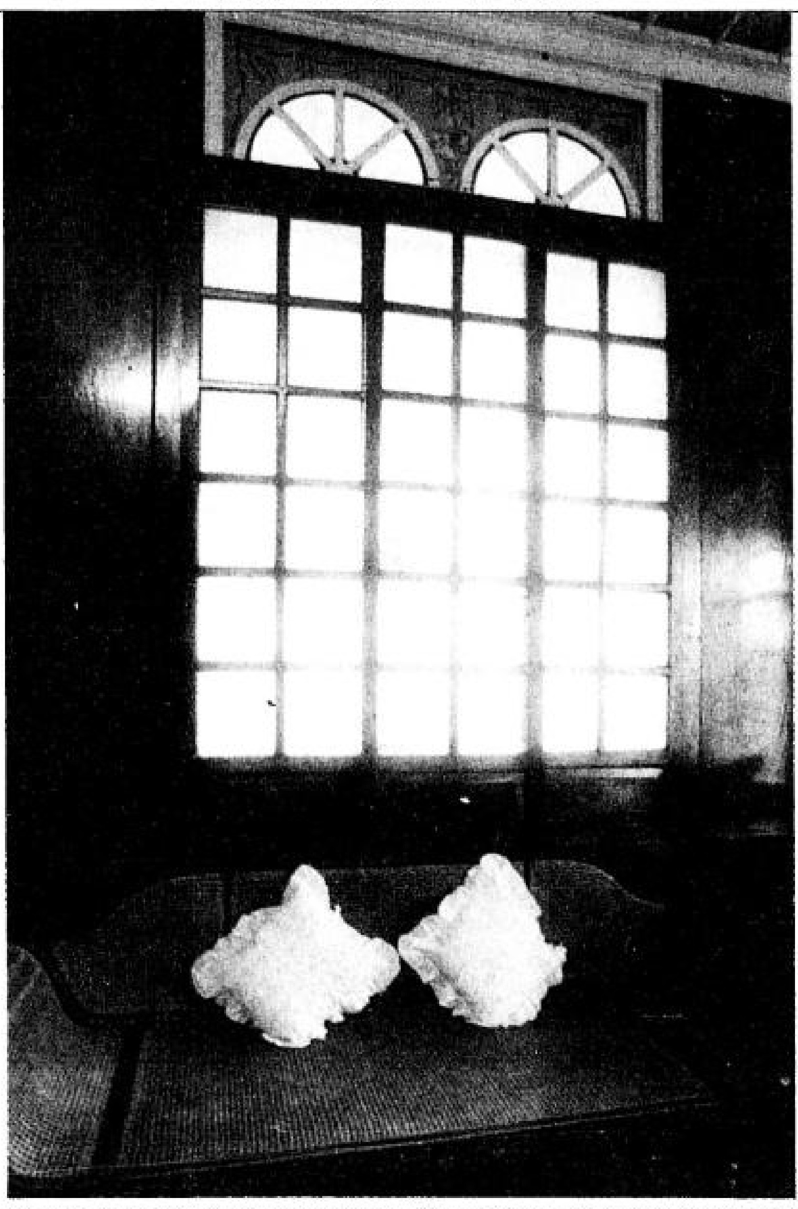
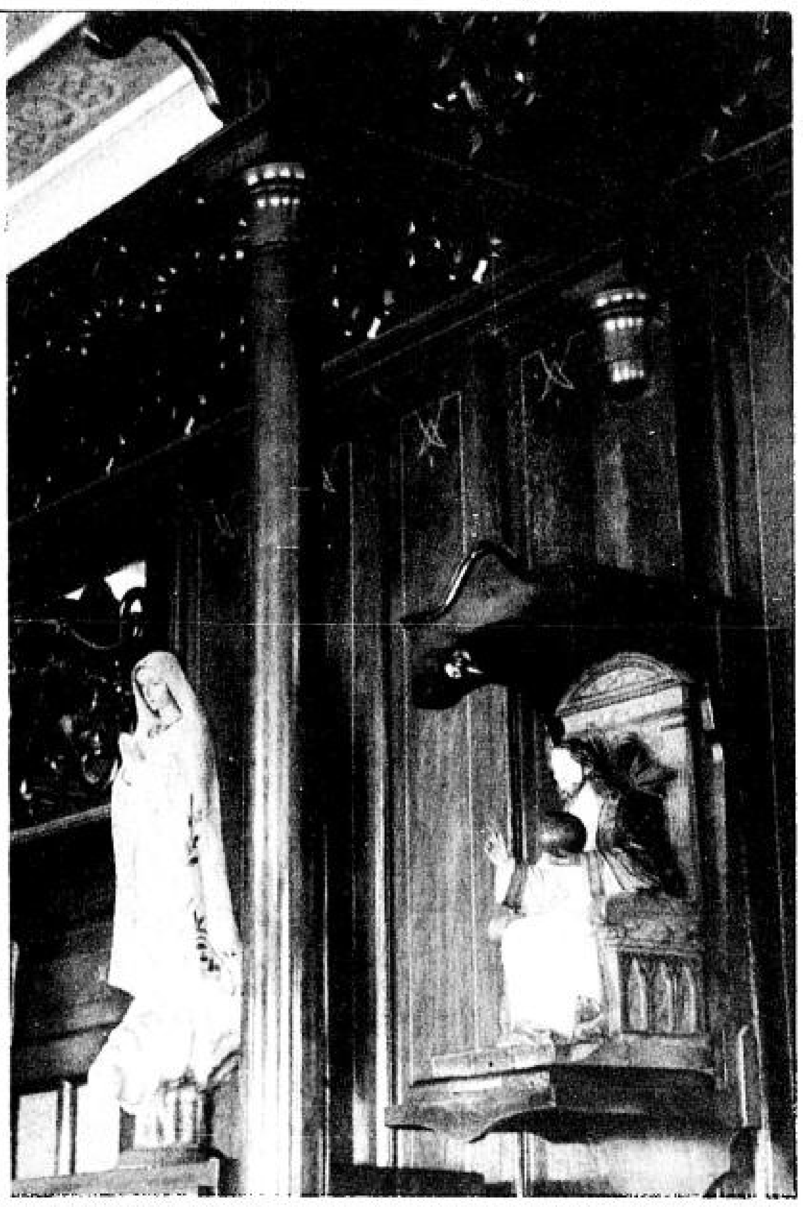


THIS antique piano ("a very good brand," beams a proud Vicky) has iron candelabras which can be swung from side to side. The piano had become a status symbol in many homes of the past.



THE OLD textured glass panes on the windows allow the occupants to keep their privacy while letting light in under a hand-painted design that was probably the forerunner of today's *trompe l'oeil.*



IN A PLACE of honor near the main door is an altar, a fixture in many Filipino homes, and a testament to the Filipino's religiosity. Note the rounded wooden column, rendered shiny by age.

80-year-old house survives in a concrete jungle

(From page E3)

Church for Mass but has since dropped the routine when she noticed her hair rising as soon as she was outdoors, for no reason at all. "*Kinikilabutan ako,*" she says.

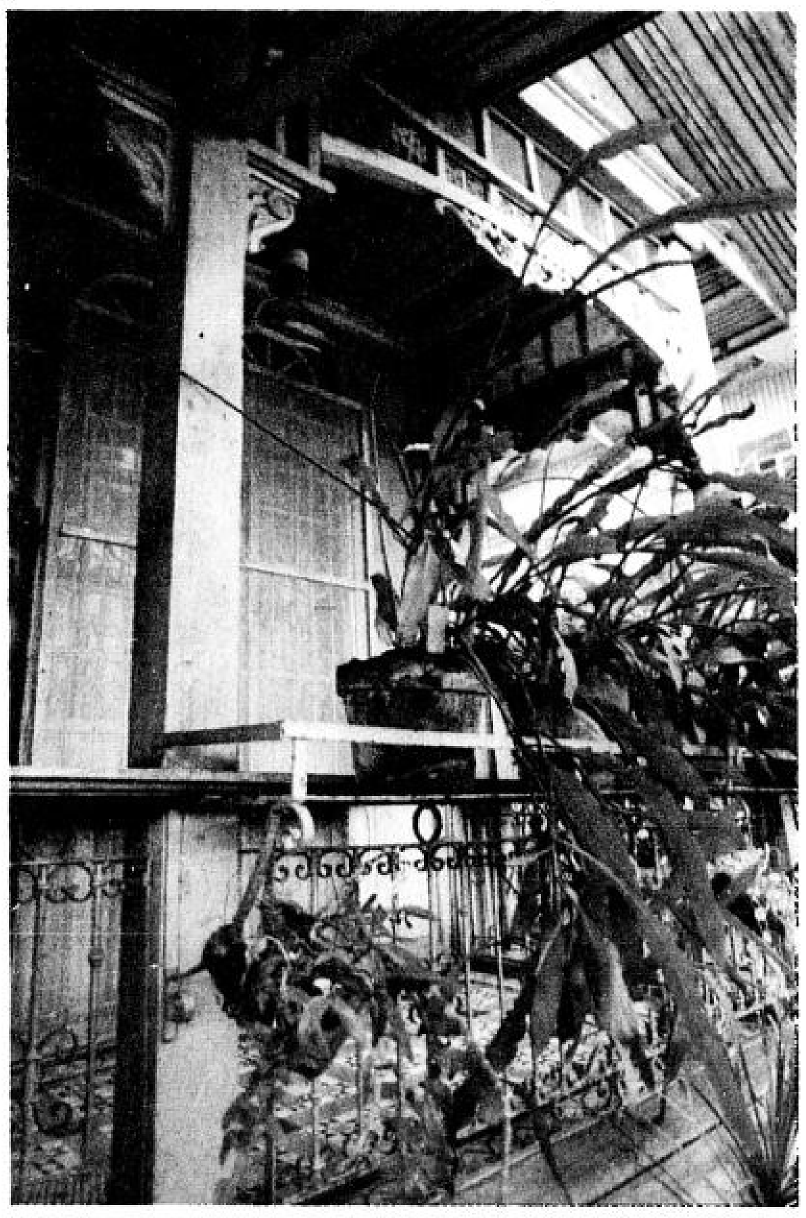
Yes, there are stories of 2008 Dominga St. being haunted, but these Vicky takes in stride. Like those stories about elves and dwarfs crowding the compound. "My nephews and nieces—all of a sudden they would have a fever and it would not disappear despite medication. My mother would call the *magta-tawas* to treat them. '*Siguro sa kalikutan, may natapakan na duwende,*' the *magta-tawas* would say. The man would light a candle over a bowl of water and the candle drippings on the water would form a shape: '*Yun ang mukha ng duwende.*' Prayers would be chanted and the fever would disappear," she says.

Although she "feels silly" recounting the story, Vicky nonetheless says that the *magta-tawas* exclaimed, as he was coming into the compound, "*Naku po, ang dami pala ninyo,*" speaking to the elves and dwarfs in the compound.

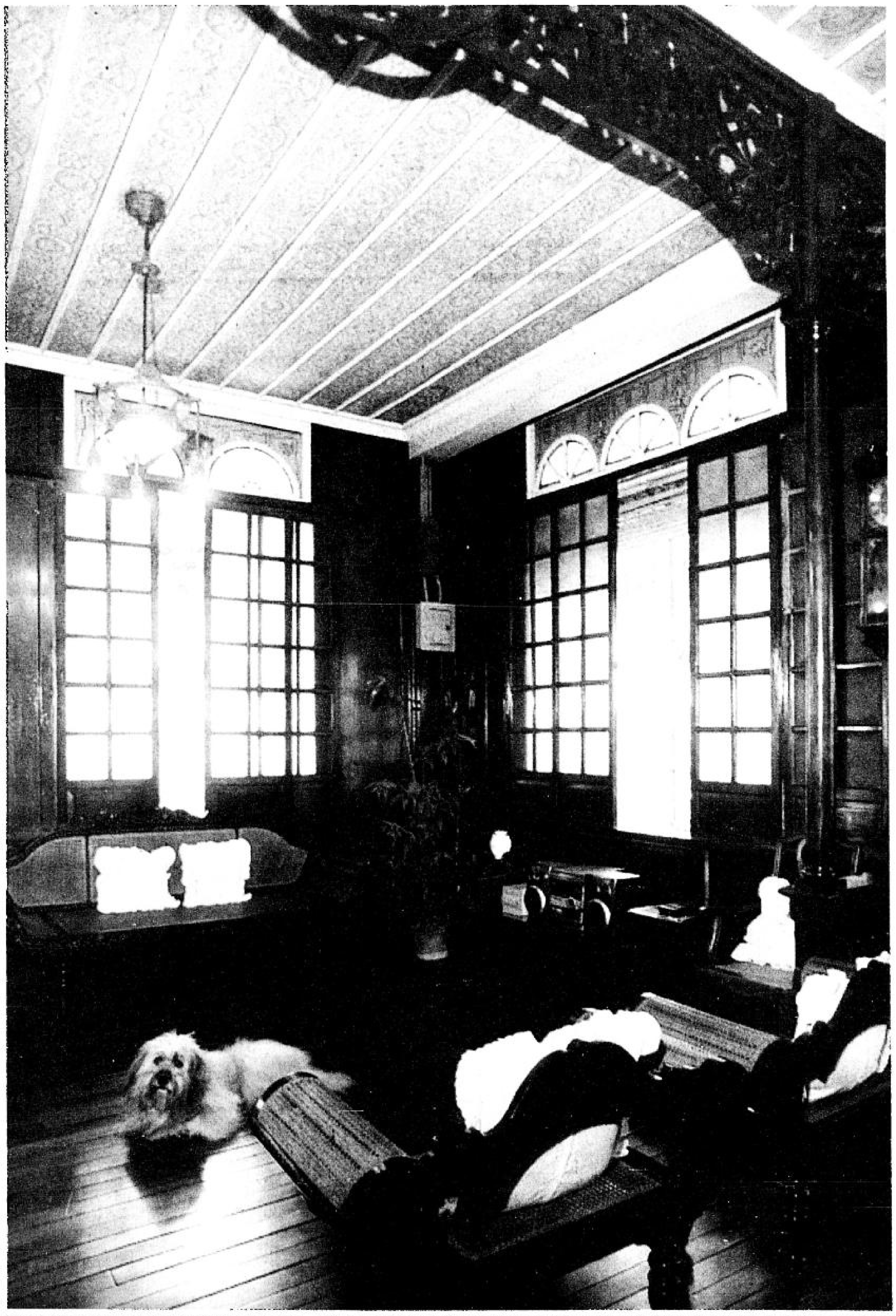
But perhaps the most interesting possession in the Agtarap house is one that Vicky will surely bring with her if she leaves: a 4-ft image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel holding the Baby Jesus in her arm. Vicky believes it is miraculous as once, in Batangas, when the image was enshrined in the ancestral home there, neighbors had claimed seeing a beautiful mestiza with long, wavy hair just like the image's, looking out the window.

Vicky is convinced it is *her* Lady of Mount Carmel. Will the Lady help her with the miracle of preserving a thing of the past like 2008 Dominga?

HOW many handshakes has this main door handle given in its 80 years of existence? Not even the textured glass pane beside it can give a shadow of an answer.



THE FRONT porch is a mix of old grills, Machuca tiles, potted plants, *calado*, an old hanging lamp and wooden slats under the roof.



THE LIVING room, virtually in its original state, with the hand-painted ceiling; *calado* or handcarved divider just below the ceiling to define spaces functionally and decoratively; the tall, slim windows under transoms with glass arches to let more light in; and Vicky's dog enjoying the tongue-and-groove wooden floor.

Fiesta celebration caps Festival Mall fair

TO CAP the two-week-long exhibit dubbed "Pistahan @ Expo," Festival Supermall, with the Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry and the Southern Tagalog Tourism Council, "Pistang Nayon" will be held May 5 and 6. The exhibit and trade fair are at the mall's expo trade and music hall located at the fourth level.

"Pistang Nayon" will showcase celebrations of a traditional fiesta, and will feature a Mardi Gras and street parade on May 5. The paraders will highlight the Sanduguan Festival from Mindoro Oriental. This will be followed by a cultural presentation by students trained by the famed Society of Tayabas Artists and the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Dance Troupe.

The group from Tayabas Quezon under the tutelage of Sherwin Quesa and Celso Jaballa of the Luis Palad National High School will feature exciting numbers such as Abaruray, a courtship dance; Estudiantina, a dance from Unisan, Quezon performed during social gatherings; Puritos, a festival dance from Atimonan; Lanceros de Tayabas, a ball dance; Pandanggo Oasis, and Karatong, a dance that integrates the use of decorated bamboo and colorful materials to add rhythm.

On May 6, Sining Kumintang of Batangas, a renowned dance group that has traveled the world over and has been likened to the grace of the Bayanihan, will take centerstage.

To culminate the event, there will be local games such as *suman-* and *polvoron*-eating contests, *agawan ng buko* and the traditional *pabitin*. Participants are required to present a receipt worth at least P100 from any of the booths at the "Pistahan @ Expo."

Almost 50 booths featuring Southern Tagalog's finest arts and crafts, embroidery, plants and flowers, furniture and delicacies such as *suman*, *broas*, *longganisa Lucban*, *achara*, *matamis sa bao*. Participating provinces include Aurora, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Rizal, Marinduque, Mindoro Oriental and Occidental and Romblon. Call 850-3514.

Basketball challenge for children

GOINGS-ON

THIS May, expect something different from ThemeWorks Events Company Inc., which handles Jollibee Power of 3 North Luzon Basketball Challenge, its pioneer project. The Power of 3 project is part of the thrust to bring children closer to sport especially this summer to keep them away from bad habits and boredom. The event will cover 10 areas in Northern Luzon. Children aged 7-9 for the kids' division and aged 10-12 for juniors' division can participate in the project. The championship is slated on May 27.

SEMINAR. The Missionaries of Mary, a lay Marian movement, is offering a Marian Encounter Seminar Module II on May 13 at the Catholic Charismatic Institute, Scout Santiago corner Scout Rallos Streets, QC. Admission is free. Call 743-8729.

ATTENTION. Adarna House, the country's pioneer children's book publishing firm, is calling all budding and professional writers to submit their stories for the next batch of storybooks. Send your entries to Product Development Office. Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., QC. Call 372-3548 or 49.

HOMECOMING. The UP Library Science Alumni Association Inc. will hold its 51st Alumni Homecoming and General Business Meeting tomorrow, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the UPAA Hostel and Services Inc., R. Magsaysay Avenue, UP Diliman, QC. Call 896-9801 local 241, 521-3166 local 196 or 733-3726/3640.

The Board for Librarians announces the publication of the Directory of Licensed Librarians in the Philippines. All licensed librarians are requested to submit their personal data to R. Dante O. Perez c/o UP Institute of Library Science, Diliman, QC.

ART WORKSHOP. Faber-Castell offers free art workshops for children aged 7-11. Workshop schedules:- May 5, UST Museum; May 8-9, SM Manila Activity Area; May 15-16, CenterMall, SM Centerpoint; May 18, Chili's, QC; May 19, Metropolitan Museum of Manila; May 25, Museo Pambata; May 26, UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC; June 1, Ayala Museum, Makati; June 2, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati. Call 361-7391/92 or 361-7395/96.

WORKSHOP. Adarna House, Powerbooks Specialty Store and Family Reader Magazine present Kuwentong Adarna: Summer Storytelling and Workshop for Kids until May 5, at Powerbooks Specialty Store, G/F Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City. Fun and exciting activities such as storytelling sessions, clay modeling, mask making and shadow puppet making workshops await kids. Call 850-5662.

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A FLORAL parade during the festival highlights floats with animal motifs, like this swan covered all over with white mums.

RACHY Cuna combines yellow feather dusters and song-of-India foliage, both Baguio flora, for a table arrangement.

Why Baguio is the city of flowers

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

"FLOWERS of Baguio" is Reynaldo G. Alejandro's latest book. Before rushing back to the US, his home base, he left me a copy (through his co-author Vicente Roman S. Santos) so I could mention it in this column. There are environmental aspects revealed in the book which he thought would interest me, and he was right.

For no story of Baguio, and certainly not this one by Alejandro and Santos, can ever be told without mention of its cool invigorating climate, its hilly pine-covered terrain and the indigenous tribes like the Igorots and Ibalois who were its first caretakers.

It is fortunate that those who first saw Baguio's potentials, recognized that it was the natural environment that made it distinct, and endeavored to develop the place with that in mind. These were the Americans (and to a small extent, the Japanese). The Spaniards who were there before them did not establish any settlement in the place, and when they wanted to build a hospital there, it was too late for them.

It was the Americans at the turn of the 20th century who, while looking for an appropriate site for a military outpost, came upon what must have seemed like a little Shangri-La (or at least, a bit of cold New England) in the mountains of a hot, tropical country.

So Army engineers cut across the mountains and built roads to facilitate travel from Manila and back. It soon became apparent that the weather was right not just for a military camp, but for rest and recreation of officers and personnel. Construction work expanded to include living quarters, and because plants and flowers grew so easily and abundantly in the site, gardens and parks were incorporated into the overall landscape, as they eventually would be for the rest of the city. Later, the Philippine Military Academy was established in Baguio, providing the city with one more attraction.

SUNFLOWERS, real and man-made, were all over Baguio's floral parade. Costumed participants show their creative use of the flower.

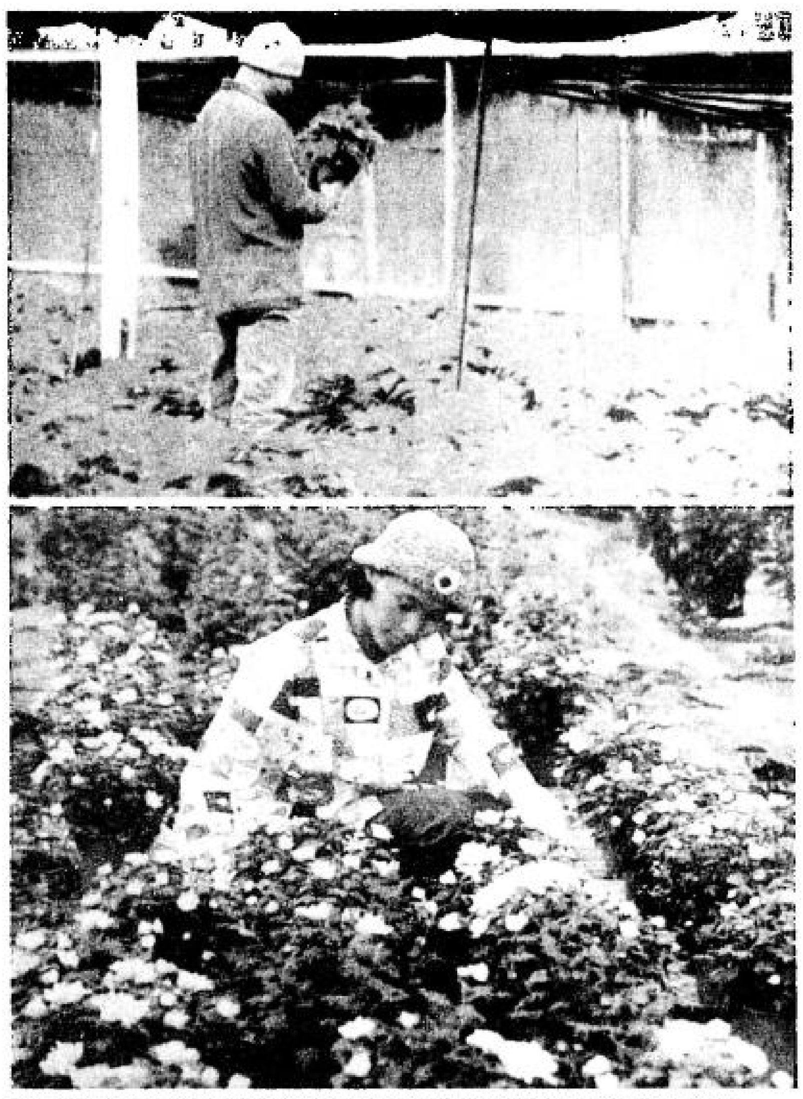
Maximum use of natural terrain

Credit must be given to those American town planners (like Burnham) who made maximum use of the natural terrain and flora in their designs. Somehow, they could not resist from including roads and parks, lagoons and public gardens in their plans. Soon, these were imitated for private homes,

The rolling hills "invited" the construction of low-slung houses where man could, as it were, cleave close to the earth. The raw materials from the forest and the hand- hewn products of tribal artisans further enhanced this desire to build from nature. (Years later, high-rise buildings would find their way to Baguio's landscape, making some people wonder if Baguio needed them.)

Pine trees, which have been depleted in recent years, have always been a Baguio landmark. They became the natural backdrops for the houses, their scent wafting everywhere. In time, Baguio was to be known as the City of Pines, as well as of Flowers (in much the same way as La Trinidad in Benguet would be referred to as the "Salad Bowl of the Philippines" for its vegetables)

It soon came to be known also as the country's Summer Capital when Filipino officialdom, by the President of the Philippines (then a Commonwealth) would hold office during summer at the Mansion House, an impressive building with a man-made lagoon and gardens at its entrance



FLOWER farms get ready for seasonal demands for red poinsettias (above) and yellow mums.

The flowers and gardens and cool climate of Baguio lured many other visitors during the summer. The city became a must place to be during those hot months, and so it was that it also became a social destination.

Ecotourism

One of the areas that made aesthetic use of its natural surroundings was Camp John Hay, which started out as a clubhouse for American servicemen. With the creation of the Bases Conversion Development Authority in the mid-'90s, it was renovated for purposes of ecotourism, human resource development and as a forest watershed reservation.

Journalist/artist Llita Logarta's contribution to the book, "Gardens in My Mind" is a nostalgia piece where she relates her most vivid memories of Baguio. They are the flowers and gardens that her mother tended, she writes, mentioning that they lived in Baguio for many years because her father, a military officer, was posted there. The flowers she remembers best are the dahlias, petunias, snow-drops and roses, most of which her mother grew in their garden. And then there was the scent of fresh-cut grass that still lingers in her mind. Logarta now specializes in portraits of flowers which are exhibited here and abroad.

Taking centerstage in the book are, of course, the flowers that are now big business, tourist attractions and nature-lovers' delights all at once.

The photos that fill it from cover to cover are contributions of members of the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. (FPPF) who may rightfully be considered the book's third co-author. The close-ups of individual blooms, and vista shots of the Festival reveal the floral opulence of the Baguio environment, are further captured by artistic arrangements—floralscapes—by florist/architect Rachy Cuna.

There are, of course, the flower growers and suppliers who are largely responsible for making Baguio's flower business a thriving one, and the organizers of the annual Baguio flower festival called Panagbenga, who put in so much time and effort to make it a grand and glorious event.

Indigenous plants

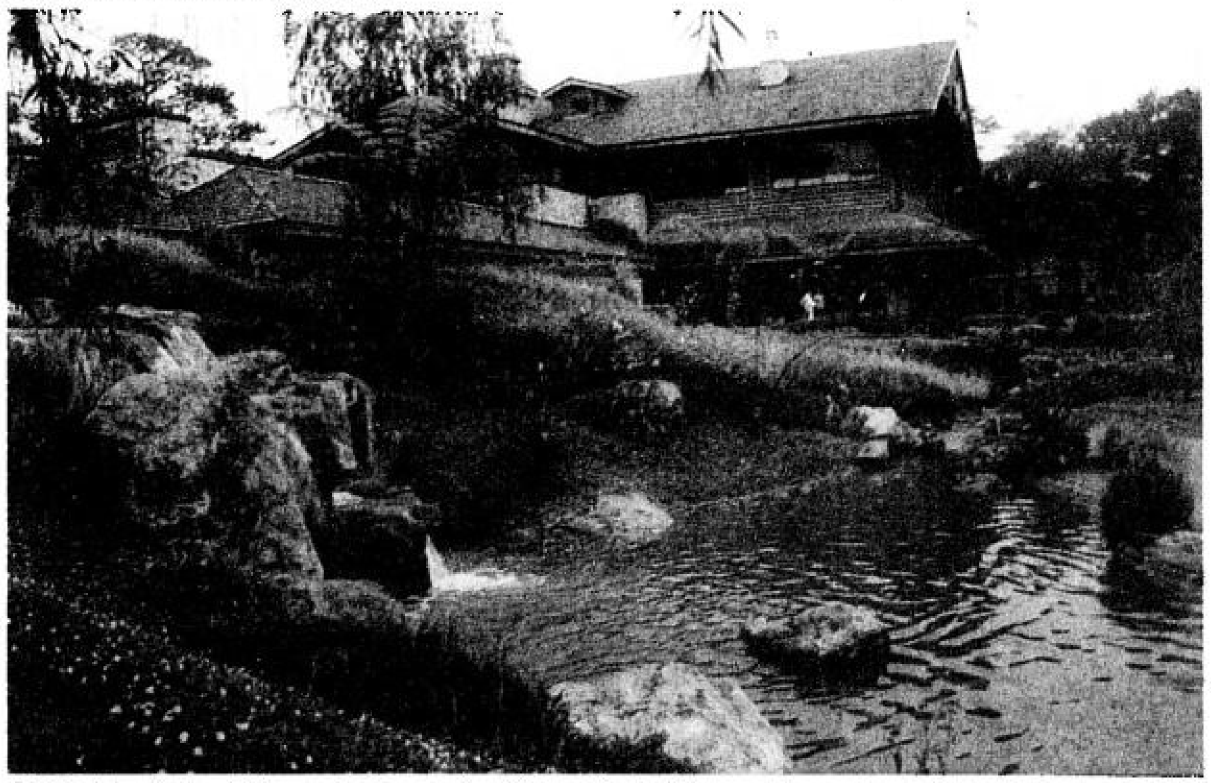
There is mention of the specific flowers that abound in Baguio, accompanied by their photos—sunflowers, daisies, hydrangeas, impatiens, pitcher plants, dandelions and *dama de noche*. But most of them, Alejandro explains, are not of local origin but rather were introduced here from Africa, South America, Europe and Australia. They have thrived so well in Baguio weather, however, that they might as well have been native to it.

"This is not to say," explains Alejandro, "that Baguio and for that matter, Benguet, does not have indigenous plant life... The mountain ranges are home to several species found only there [like] the spiked *tumtumbak*, the petite yellow blooms of *kaniuong*, the immaculate *ma lambaho*, and the pink *ausip* (both from the rhododendron family)." It is just possible that they have been displaced by their foreign counterparts and by the fads and trends that divert attention from them.

Other indigenous flowers that Alejandro names are the Benguet Lily, the Easter Lily, Lady's Slippers and a pitcher plant variety. In danger of extinction is the world- famous Philippine orchid *Phalaenopsis* [illegible] *denii* and the Medinilla. The Philippines has its own rose, *Rosa Philippinensis*, still found in Baguio, although many of its varieties remain unnamed. It is too bad, however, that no photos of these indigenous flowers and plants accompany the text.

Some of the natural enticements of Baguio may have been diminished with the passing of years and careless handling, but it is people like the flower growers And vendors, those behind the Baguio Flower Festival, the FPPF, the Camp John Hay [illegible] Point Development Corp., and the city officials themselves who keep the city's original, beautiful aspects alive.

"Flowers of Baguio" is the first in National Bookstore's and Anvil Publishing's "Bulaklak Series."



CAMP John Hay's clubhouse is an example of how well a building and the environment blend.

PINE trees characterize Baguio's landscape.

She fell in love with textmate's husband

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I was quite touched by Jay's letter (PDI Lifestyle, 04/22/01). I believe he has really fallen in love with his textmate. That happens, and I'm a living proof of it.

I met my textmate through his wife to whom I sent a message by mistake. We became friends through texting and exchanged messages for two years, during which I learned she had cancer. I never got to meet her, though, and when she went abroad and died there, I wasn't even able to attend her funeral either.

In the middle of our friendship, her husband also became my good friend through texting. After she died, he courted me, initially via texts, and eventually through phone calls. We had been steady for only a week when his family learned of it and felt scandalized by our relationship. It was too soon after his wife's death, they said.

We decided to give up our relationship, but we continued to shower each other with much affection. The day came, though, when I felt we should be together and that he should—but won't—fight for our relationship. When he felt he was losing me, he made up his mind to continue our relationship. He also had cancer, and he said he couldn't go on without me and it was me who had been giving him the strength to recover. He said he had lost hope after his wife died, but I had given him reason to live again.

He said he would come back from abroad this September, and we would look for our own house, and next year we will get married. None of that happened. His cancer spread and doctors could not save him.

But during that one-month affair, I felt I had never loved anyone more than I loved him or received love from anyone more than I received from him. I don't think I'll ever find another one like him.

I'm still trying to recover, Tita, and right now I continue to feel my feelings of loss and loneliness will never end. My relationship has taught me that great love happens only when we open ourselves to the one who needs us most, but even great relationships can come to an end.

In Jay's case, I hope he'll decide to meet her and reveal to her his true condition. There's nothing wrong with having cancer, and I'm sure that if she will fall in love with him, she will love him not out of pity. At the very least, they should let their friendship flourish.

IMEE

Thank you very much for your letter, my dear. Like the other letters which I received in reaction to our column on Jay two weeks ago, I will forward your e-mail to him. It will be up to him to reply or not to each letter, of course, and I hope he will when he feels well enough to sit up and write.

As regards the love you lost, go ahead and grieve, *hija*. After losing a loved one, giving way to grief is a good part of healing ourselves. True grief cannot be buried, set aside or postponed, otherwise it festers inside us and comes out (for come out it will) worse.

But when the day comes when you wish you were done with grieving and could enjoy life again, don't feel guilty for having such thoughts. You do, indeed, deserve to be happy again. If he could reappear and speak, the man you loved and lost to death would surely tell you he would like you to go on with life and be happy. He loved you much, you said. And since he did, he could only wish you well.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

New Mac technology launched

APPLE introduces "Power to Burn," a seminar on innovative hardware and software applications showcasing the latest, brightest and most powerful advances in Mac technology.

The new iMac has everything anybody wants in a computer. It is loaded with features that enable users to make desktop movies and create music CDs. It comes with a host of applications including Sherlock 2 which lets users surf the Web and send e-mail with utmost ease.

There's also Apple's AirPort wireless networking which allows up to 10 iMac users to share one Internet connection through one phone line, cable or DSL modem simultaneously.

Power Mac G4 is a superprocessor with a new high-performance architecture that runs up to 733 megahertz. What this offers is total power to run Apple's new software, such as iTunes, iDVD and iMovie.

"With the new Power Mac G4s, Apple has created the first complete solution for CD and DVD authoring," said Apple CEO Steve Jobs in a video presentation that was played over a new iMac. "Apple's revolutionary SuperDrive, which can burn both CDs and consumer-compatible DVDs, combined with Apple's new iTunes and iDVD applications, creates a solution that is years ahead of everyone else."

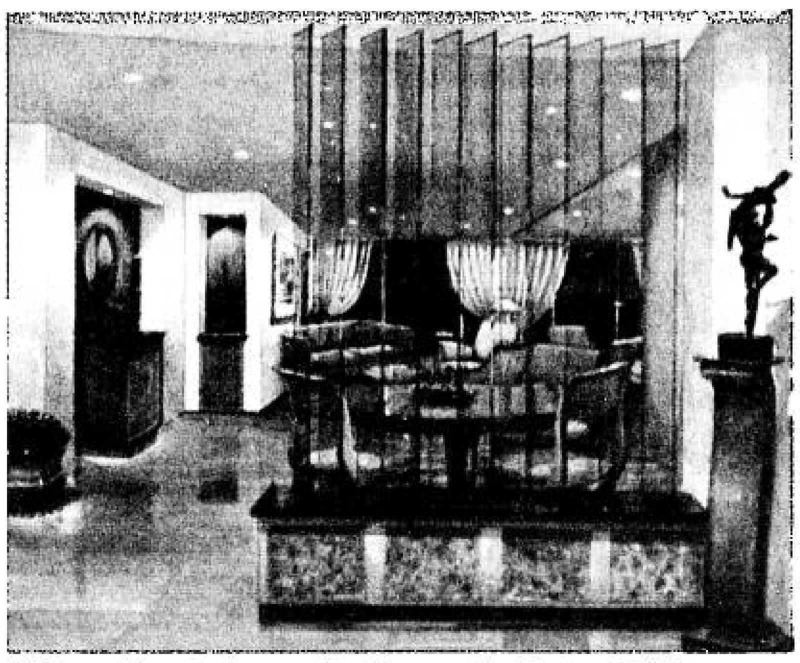
Graham Perkins, Apple Singapore Creative Markets manager, concurred: "iMac and the Power Mac G4 are the future of computers and they're here, now." Perkins flew in to the Philippines especially for the seminar, the first one of its scope for Apple Phils.

Apple's iTunes, a jukebox software, allows users to burn standard audio CDs through a CD-readable/writeable drive that comes built-in to every new iMac computer. iTunes also allows users to create their personal playlists of an unlimited number of songs derived from CDs and Internet radio stations.

iDVD is a breakthrough new application that lets professional and amateur filmmakers alike easily make professional-looking videos on the DVD format for playback on any consumer DVD player.

The software offers users professionally designed themes and drag-and-drop simplicity. With just one click, iDVD automatically converts iMovie, Final Cut Pro, or any QuickTime video file into the required format and compresses them into the MPEG-2 compression standard required to make DVDs and burns the DVD-R disk with Apple's SuperDrive.

What's more, through the new DVD Studio Pro application—a perfect complement to Apple's award-winning Final Cut Pro software—users can easily compose video images with special visual and sound effects to create his or her own award-winning "film masterpiece."



TWO- and three-bedroom units will occupy the 33-story Galleria Regency located at the gateway of the Ortigas Business District.

Residential landmark to sweep Ortigas skyline

GALLERIA Regency (GR) redefines the meaning of "home" for those few favored individuals. A residential landmark soon to rise at the gateway of the Ortigas Business District, GR epitomizes the perfect haven for today's city dwellers.

At a glance, its imposing façade projects superior architectural design which perfectly blends with Robinsons Galleria, the country's premier mixed-use complex. Rising 33 stories, this residential tower provides exclusive privileges to its future unit owners.

It will have a direct link to the Robinsons Galleria Mall, which offers complete shopping, dining and entertainment facilities. Beside it is the Manila Galleria Suites, which offers best value accommodation with top-of-the-line facilities for conventions, special events, business, fitness, fine dining and recreation. The 45-story Robinsons Equitable Tower and the 30-story Galleria Corporate Center, business addresses to the country's foremost corporations, are but a stone's throw.

The residential units of the Galleria Regency are an epitome of class, elegance and style. Well-planned and designed for maximum visual impact, the Galleria Regency offers residents a breathtaking view of the Metro Manila Skyline. Songsong & Periquet, interior designers commissioned to handle the project, have laid down their suggested designs for the Galleria Regency typical units.

"The look will be modern Filipino. There will be a lot of expensive wood and glass panels combined with simple wall finishing to achieve that warm and cozy feel. As the designer of this exciting project, it is our earnest desire to achieve an illusion of space and serenity," said Ogie Periquet, the firm's partner.

Periquet suggests veneered wall cladding and simple ceiling designs. "Based on the typical floor layout, the future dweller will be able to achieve a tasteful and expensive-looking home."

Limited to two-bedroom and three-bedroom types, there are now over 90 units available for sale at affordable rates. The residential units can be found from the 21st to the 33rd floor, where the Penthouse units are located. Lower floors have been dedicated to be hotel suites. There will be separate lobbies adjacent to each other, suggesting privacy and exclusivity for its unit owners and guests.

Robinsons Land Corp., the real estate company of JG Summit Holdings conglomerate, is the developer of the Galleria Regency. RLC's core business include commercial center development and operation, hotel operation and management, upscale and mass housing development and high-rise office and residential building development and management.

Call the RLC's High Rise Buildings Division's Marketing Services Department at 633-0197/7641 to 90, locals 295 or 186.

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Stars' last glimmer

By Donnie C. Ramirez

STARS Bar & Dining, that tony enclave of glitz and chic at Glorietta 4, has closed down. The end came last April 30, a few weeks after it hosted its last Zodiac Party for some of its Aries-born friends like **Pepper Teehankee, Faith Lavarro, Rachel Uy** and **Philip Cu-Unjieng. EJ Litton,** Stars' genial main man, is understandably sad to see his turf go, but the grapevine is a-buzz that he is soon stalking back with a brand-new dive in bustling Rockwell Center.

Going back to that Zodiac gig at Stars, it was a jumping, cheek-by-jowl bash attended by the usual suspects from party land and show biz. Among those noted were young heartthrobs **Rico Yan** and **Lui Villaruz,** comebacking male model **Hans Montenegro** looking fully recovered from that infamous video scandal, actor-director **Eric Quizon,** Robinsons Group workaholic exec **Frederick Go,** bar-owner **Christopher Petterssen** with pals **Mark Nelson** and **Patricia Javier,** PR man **Bob Zozobrado** with **Aida Posadas** and **Ernie Liwanag,** hot hunk **David Bunevacz** and body beautiful wifey **Jessica Rodriguez,** exotic **Jessica Guevara,** glam gals **Celia Cuasay, Jayne Yu** and **Rosanna Peña,** publisher **Vicky Perez de Tagle** (Happy birthday, girl!) and lasting companions **Becky Garcia** and **Henri Muzzarelli.**

THE AUTHOR (seated) with Dandy Gomez, Joanne Salgado, Kessara Arnold and Tereret Liboro

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Jun Magsaysay strike victors' pose at PPC rally.

LUI Villaruz and Rico Yan

Incidentally, it was at this party where starlet **Victoria London,** once the steady girl of **Borgy Manotoc,** was allegedly roughed up by **Benjie Paras'** estranged wife **Jackie Forster** and her pal **Joanne Quintas.** Frankly, I think this is a cheap nonissue that was blown out of proportion. Next item, please.

Helen stages a comeback

SEVENTIES' movie queen **Helen Gamboa** is as sweet, gracious and, yes, lovely as when she was dominating the local box-office with such vintage musicals as "Bang Shang-A-Lang" and "Happy Together." Now the wife of Sen. **Tito Sotto,** she is making a strong acting comeback with a key role in the popular soap opera "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

Helen, a dear friend for years, was more excited about her daughter **Lala** than her show-biz comeback at the luncheon she hosted for a few friends at her well-appointed White Plains home recently. Over home-cooked *adobo* and *kare-kare*, she talked about Lala's bid for a councilor's seat in the third district of Quezon City.

Lala, 24, is the second of Tito and Helen's four children. The others are **Apples,** a psychologist; only son **Gian** who is taking up entrepreneurial management at the University of Asia and the Pacific, and youngest girl **Ciara,** who is making her mark as singer and actress like her mom.

Of the brood, Lala is the one who has taken after her dad. Even at Poveda where she finished elementary and grade school, she already immersed herself in cause-oriented groups like the Samahang Kasama ng Kabataan (Kasama), Unang Hakbang Tungo Sa Bagong Milenyo and Helen's own foundation, Kababaihang Karamay ng Mamamayan (Kamay).

BIRTHDAY girl Czarina Syquia

With her celebrity mother and actress-sister Ciara accompanying her in her house-to-house forays, Lala always gets a crowd. But she also gets solid support from her boyfriend, Vince de Leon, a staffer in the Office of the President in Malacañang, and her schoolmates at the College of St. Benilde where she is into her senior year in international studies.

Calling herself a nontraditional pal, Lala advocates a refreshing new politics that gives premium on pro-democracy, pro-women, pro-poor and pro-youth.

Where's Mrs. V?

FRIENDS of **Mila Magsaysay-Valenzuela,** otherwise known in the five-star hotel row as "Mrs. V," are wondering what she is doing now. Since she retired from the Peninsula Manila where she was the hotel's director of PR for 25 years, she has been rarely seen.

Well, here's the update on Mrs. V. She has been stomping the campaign trail for her younger brother, Sen. **Jun Magsaysay,** who is running for another Senate term this May 14. Even if Jun has consistently made it to the top five list in pre-poll surveys, Mila said they are not letting up on the campaign.

In his freshman term in the Senate, Jun proved himself a worthy son of his father, the much-admired late President **Ramon Magsaysay Sr.** As chair of the Senate committees on trade and commerce, science and technology, and cooperatives, he worked within the objective of providing opportunities for the ordinary Filipino to improve their living conditions. His program of government is capsulized in the acronym JOBS (Jobs, Opportunities, Business and Security).

A mechanical engineering grad from La Salle, Jun took up postgraduate courses in New York University and Harvard School of Business Administration. Unknown to many, he was a reserved officer of the Philippine Navy with the rank of commander and also wrote a business column for the INQUIRER from 1988-1990. Jun is married to the former **Marilou Kahn** and has two children, **Margarita** and **Francisco.**

SEN. Jun Magsaysay hits campaign trail on motorbike.

But perhaps, Jun is best remembered for the role he played in the historic **Estrada** impeachment trial. Five months before he began his reelection bid, he resigned from the administration coalition to support the people's call for Estrada's resignation. He was one of the 10 senators who voted for the opening of the pivotal second envelope that ultimately led to People Power II.

Czarina at 30

CZARINA **Syquia** marked her 30th birthday with a Chinese theme party at the fabulous New Manila residence of her parents, **Louie** and **Mellie Ablaza.** The whole family pitched in to make it a memorable affair for the birthday girl. Czarina's husband, **Jofe,** designed the attractive invitations, while sister-in-law **Tessa,** who is married to her brother Marc, baked the eye-catching fondant cake.

Meanwhile, younger brother **Jun-Jun** executed the colorful Chinese décor. Red lanterns were hanging all over the place and for table centerpieces, there were little glass aquariums with real live goldfishes. The dinner fare was a sumptuous lauriat of Chinese delicacies including delicious dimsums and the ubiquitous *taho.*

Czarina's chums from college came in full force and enjoyed the ballroom dancing with friends of her popular mom Mellie from the luncheon circuit and the diplomatic corps. Happy birthday, girl!

HELEN Gamboa-Sotto and daughter Lala

VINCE de Leon and Lala Sotto

ALTA Tan, Ernie Liwanag, Becky Garcia, Leo Valdez and Ben Chan

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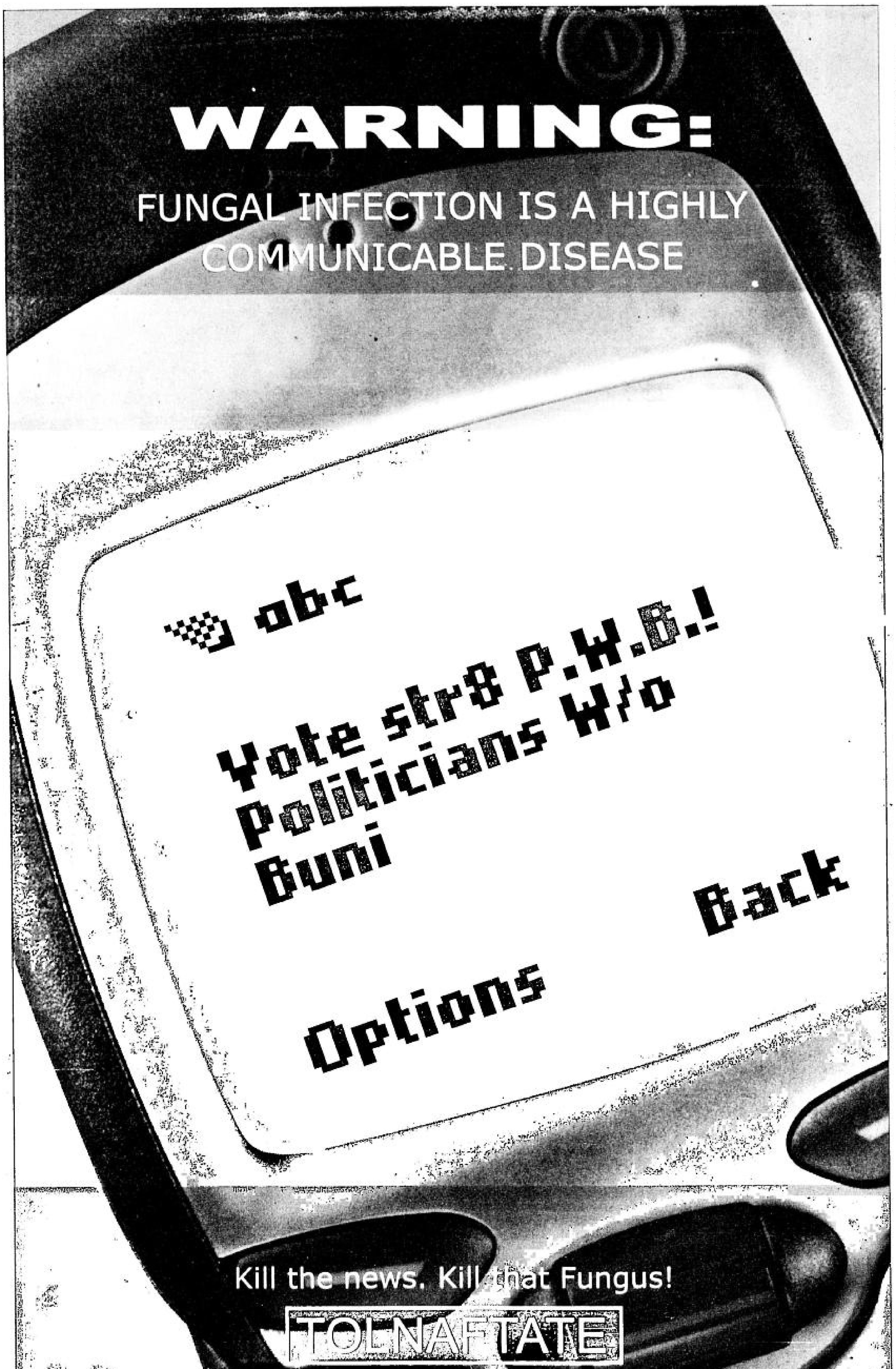

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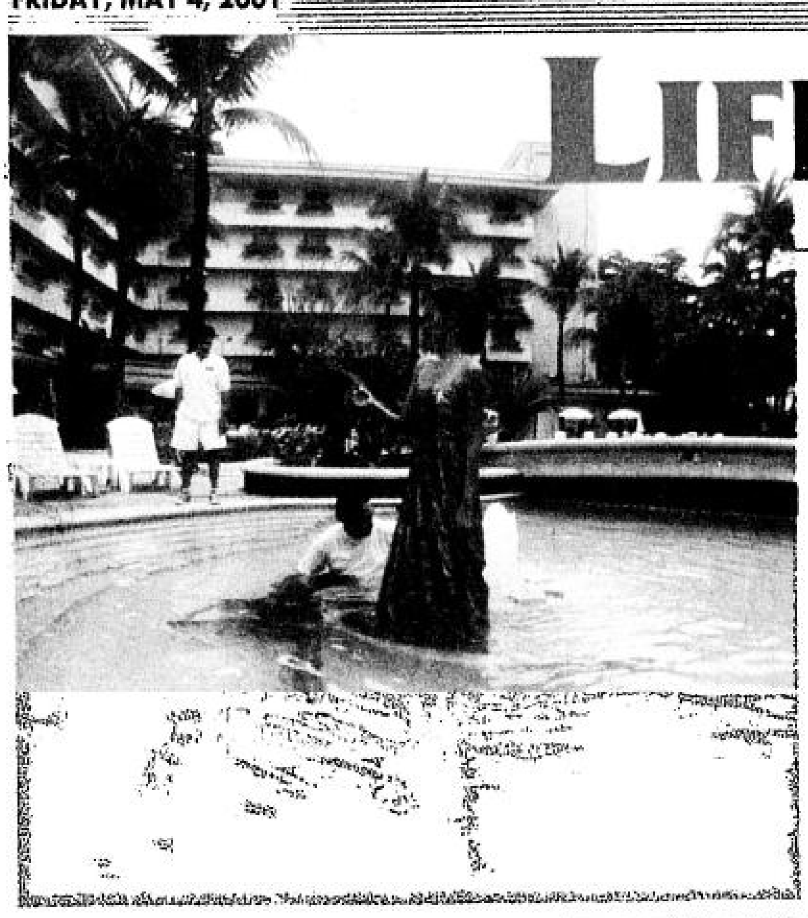

FREDERICK Peralta assists model Joy Caralde at the pool of Holiday Inn Clark Field Resort.

MODELS: JOY CARALDE AND GEORGETTE NEPOMUCENO
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LOCATION: HOLIDAY INN RESORT, CLARK FIELD
SPECIAL THANKS TO REA MUTUC AND RACHEL HILL

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Creating images in style

PHOTOS BY JOHN MOSSIGE

WHAT differentiates a photograph from a snapshot?

There's a lot of planning that goes into photography, especially in fashion photography. A good image isn't always a fluke. You just don't book the model and makeup artist, secure a permit for the location, run around malls like a headless chicken to borrow clothes and accessories and shoot. Fashion photography is not merely a form of news photography. Good pictures don't merely record the clothes. Leave that to the catalogues. They achieve the zeitgeist and help prescribe what is desirable. Good fashion photography is inextricably linked with photographic techniques, printing and the industry itself, from the designer to the suppliers, shoemakers, makeup artist and hairdresser.

In the past decade, fashion has gone into directions. The glamour school was derived from the commercial photographers of the '50s who favored overly made-up, perfectly posed models. Other photographers took the opposite route. They created shocking images of models and all their imperfections. The images reeked of sleazy sex. Whether the look was glam or grunge, a memorable photograph shows the link between art and fashion.

Breaking the rules

For Norwegian photographer John Mossige, a good fashion photo is derived from a concept and a storyline, which isn't necessarily a chronology of events. A storyline provides continuity in a pictorial.

Just as a fashion designer has a trademark, so does a photographer. "I want to create elegance in my photos, using composition and lighting. I want to create dynamism with lines or angles. The location amplifies that elegance," he says.

Arve Bolme, a Norwegian portraitist, trained Mossige. He imparted the importance of acquiring a solid technique and eventually developing one's own style by mastering compositional considerations. Once the photographer understands color, contrast, texture, form, repetition, pattern and juxtaposition, he can break the rules with an emphasis on doing so with purpose.

"He said, 'Learn basics, then you forget about it.' Basic photography is boring, it's what you make out of it," says Mossige.

In London, Mossige teamed up with a friend who was Richard Avedon's third assistant.

CREATING/ p.F2

DESIGNERS Barge Ramos, Noll Hans and Peralta discuss the pictorial concept with Mossige.

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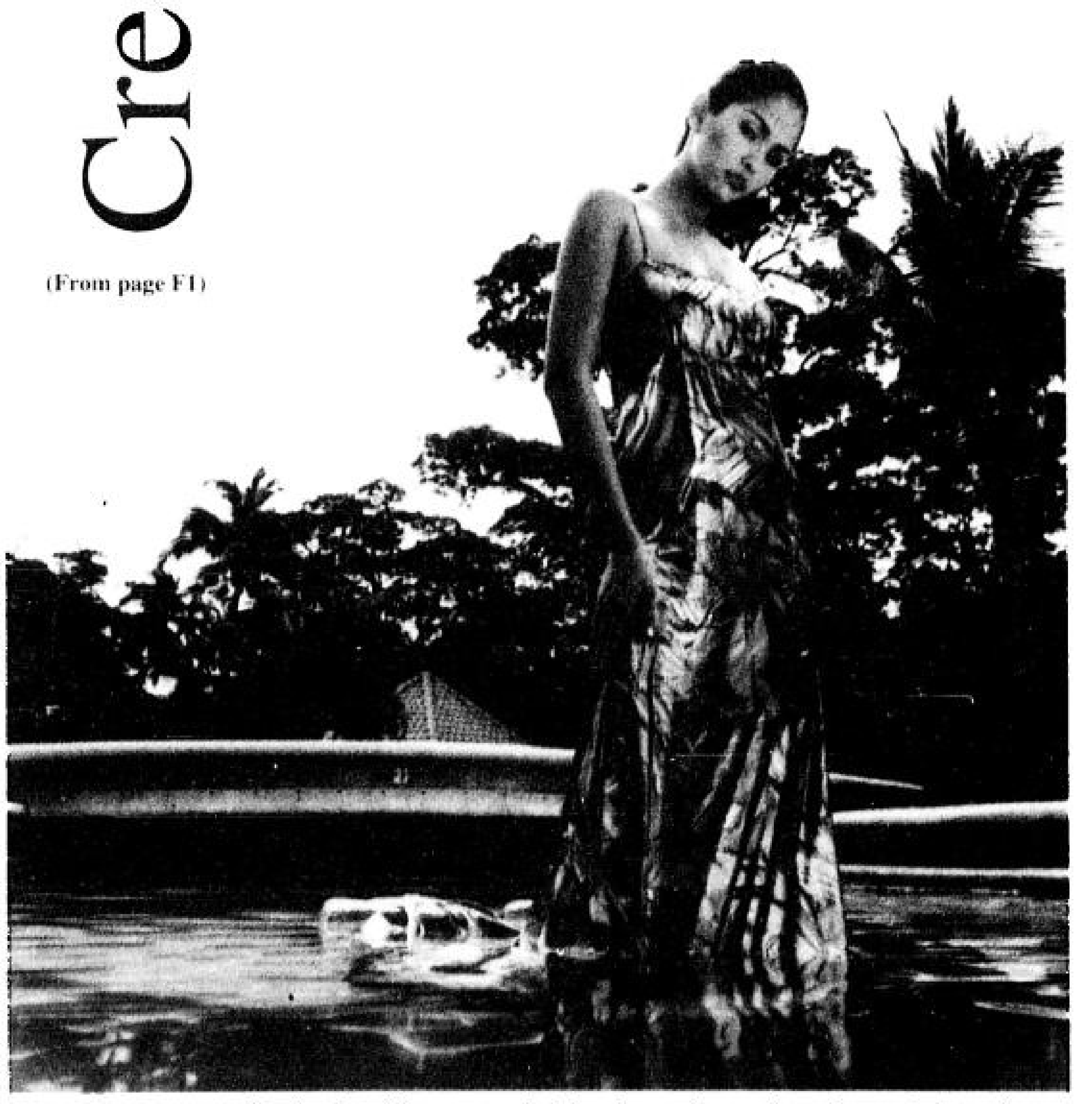
A photo session with John Mossige
is a learning experience for the designer,
makeup artist and the models

AUGGIE Cordero's red gown is shot from a low angle with Georgette standing on a ledge. The gown immediately draws attention as it contrasts the lines of hotel balconies.

Creating images in style

TOP shot of Georgette Nepomuceno who's standing in the pool, wearing Noll Hans' *jusi* blouse with scalloped embroidery.

(From page F1)

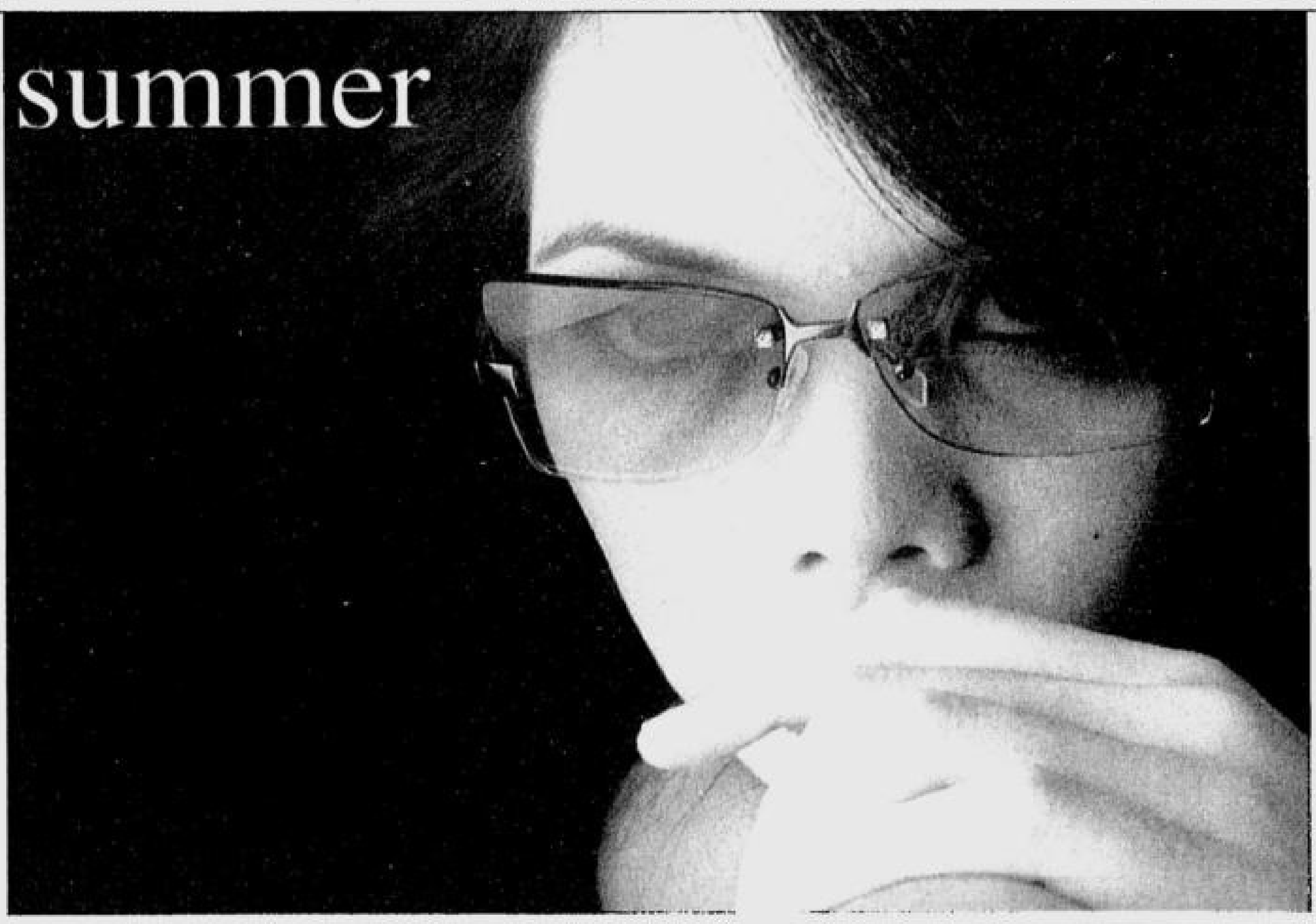


PERALTA'S trapeze, floral-printed, lurex gown is taken from a low angle as the model stands on the surface of the water.

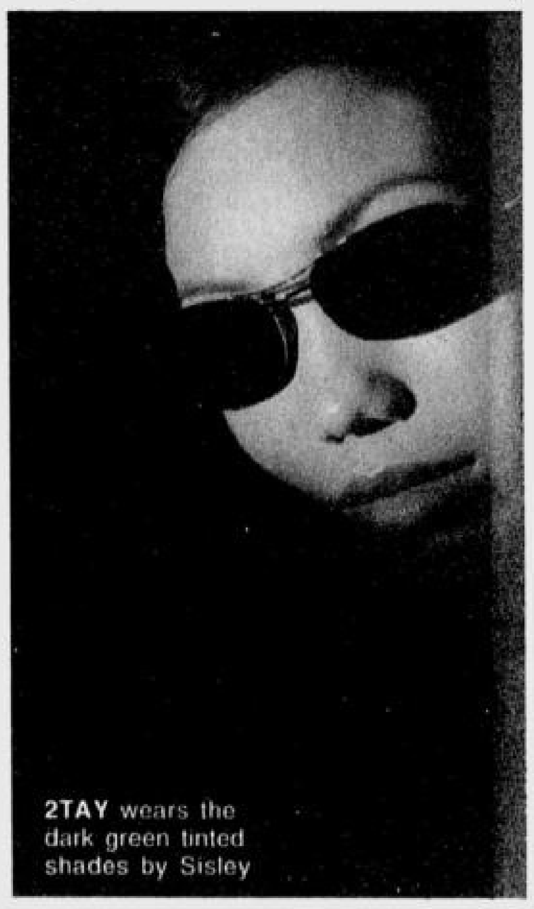
MIKE de la Rosa's dalmatian-printed, halter gown is enhanced by the background.

Shades of summer

PHOTOS BY RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO



BAMBA sports Loewe's rimless sunglasses which will be launched next month



2TAY wears the dark green tinted shades by Sisley

MODELS
FROM CAL CARRIE
MAKEUP BY PETER URBI

A PAIR of sunglasses seems so simple—it's two pieces of tinted glass or plastic in some sort of plastic or metal frame. How much simpler can something get? It turns out that there are many different things that you can do with two pieces of glass and these things can have a big effect on you when you use the lenses.

There are four things that a good pair of sunglasses should do for you:

- They provide protection from ultraviolet rays.
- They provide protection from intense light by as much as 97 percent.
- They provide protection from glare.
- They eliminate specific frequencies of light which can blur vision or enhance contrast.

When you buy a pair of cheap sunglasses, you often give up all these benefits and can even make things worse. For example, if your sunglasses offer no UV protection, you increase your exposure to UV rays. The sunglasses block some of the light, opening your iris to allow more light in. However, this also lets more UV light in as well and increases the damage UV light can cause to the retina.

The biggest problem with cheap sunglasses lies in the way the lenses are made. Inexpensive sunglasses have lenses made of ordinary plastic with a thin tinted coating on them. While the tint color and a similar frame design may make them look like Oakley X-Metal Romeos or Ray-Ban Predators, the actual lenses are very different.

Choosing perfect features

The key to finding the perfect pair of sunglasses lies in picking the right features for your situation.

- Lens material: CR-39 is plastic made from hard resin that meets optical quality standards. Polycarbonate is a synthetic plastic material that has great strength and is very lightweight. Glass lenses are heavier but are much more resistant to scratches.
- Lens quality: Optical quality polycarbonate and glass lenses are free of distortions such as blemishes or waves and have evenly distributed color across each lens. To tell if the lenses are of good quality, find a surface with repeating lines like the tiles on a floor. Hold the sunglasses a short distance away from your face and cover one eye. Look through one of the lenses at the line while moving the sunglasses slowly from left to right then up and down. The line should stay straight as you look at them. If they wiggle or waver in any way, then the lenses are not optical quality and will distort your vision.
- Lens darkness: For outdoor sports such as mountain climbing and snow-skiing, you want a tint that blocks most light. For most purposes like going to the beach or driving, look for a tint that absorbs or blocks 70-90 percent of light. Tints that offer less than 60 percent blockage are mainly good for fashion since they offer only mild protection.
- Special coatings: Anti-reflective, waterproof, mirror and scratch-resistant coatings improve the functionality of sunglasses but also add cost.
- Frame and lens design: Wrap-around frames, larger lenses and special sidereal attachments can keep ambient light, direct light and glare from your eyes.
- Frame material: The better sunglasses usually have features like tension springs connecting the arms to the face instead of just using screws.
- Brand recognition: If brand name is important to your image, then buying a brand name is important. However, it's possible to find high-quality sunglasses that don't have a brand name price.

Trends

As frame materials transparent bright up to pastel color shades prevail (no more dark deep shades). Most materials of fashionable sunglasses in the style of the '50s are light and sprayed, among color shades yellow, pink, light blue and green dominate. Spectacle lenses are mostly of the same color shade. If the frame and lens are of different hues, then lens is of a lighter shade. In some variants, the lens can be provided with a decoration of artificial stones usually located in bottom corners. Both fashion brands and firms producing sunglasses of a lower price have adopted these trends.

For customers preferring classic glasses dully black has remained a very fashionable color. This year's summer will be in the sign of several-color plastic materials, often in contrasting color shades.

As usual, sunglasses with plastic frames are used, while glossy metallic materials lag a little behind. If metal is used, it is mostly eloxal-coated from black, blue, green up to wine red.

Looking through the eyes of Dion

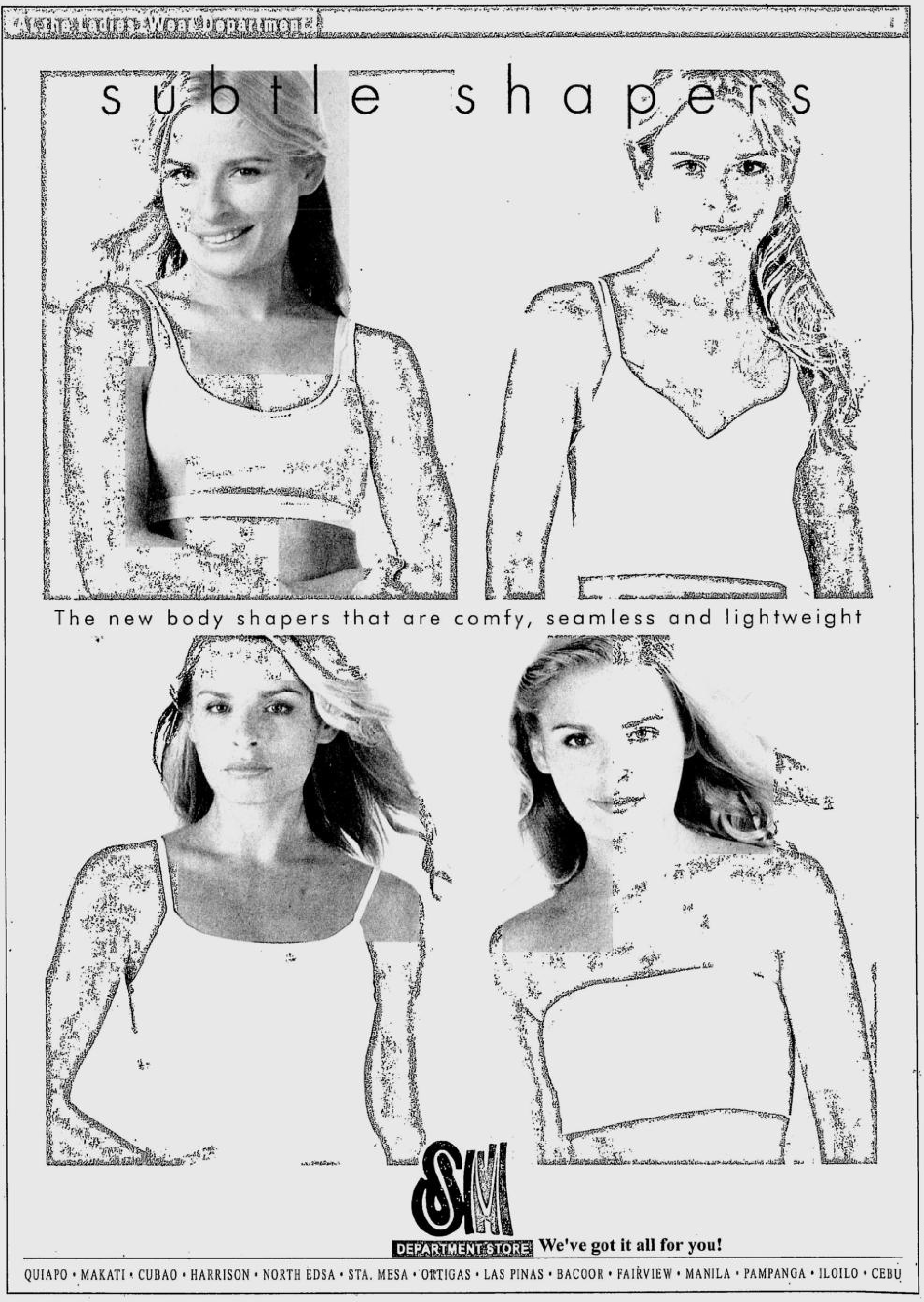
WHILE Hollywood stars design trendy and fashionable outfits for their own clothing business like Jennifer Lopez, or create their own perfume line like Elizabeth Taylor, Grammy award-winner Celine Dion is now venturing into a business which gives women another reason to be stylishly colorful, modernly sophisticated and strongly feminine through the eyewear brand she established last year in collaboration with 101 Studio Limited, the Celine Dion Eyes.

The eyewear's new collection combines basic, clean, clear and modern styles—both acetate and metal models. Available in a wide range of colors and designs, maximum attention has been given to product quality and details, applying the minimalist approach to gain classic appeal.

Celine Dion Eyes comes in various shapes and colors, catering to suit a range of tastes, fashionable for wearers with a unique style. There are glamorous ovals and traditional round shapes, all with a mixture of classic and modern styles and a palette of hues to suit every woman's taste. Added attraction is the pop diva's logo appearing in various forms—die-cut or engraved.

Celine Dion Eyes 2001 Spring Eyewear Collection consists of three main subcollections: Spring Optical Collection which has simple yet elegant design suitable for ladies who would like to complete their smart daily outfits; Spring Sunglasses Collection which reflects tastes that vary from the classic to the contemporary look; and Crystal Eyes Collection, which is used and placed on different parts of the eyewear to present a sophisticated image for the wearers.

All sun lenses used are produced of high-quality CR-39, which offers 100 percent UV400 protection. The fashionable eyewears are now available in leading optical shops all over the country.



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Creating images in style

CLAD in Ramos' woven *malong* jacket and culottes. Georgette's electricity zaps through the lenses. This picture was rainy afternoon, done by flash and control of daylight with the shutter speed.

(From page F2)

"He was influenced by Avedon's style," says Mossige. Avedon was known for emphasizing art and atmosphere rather than the clothes.

Details

In a pictorial, everything has to be planned to the detail. A photographer doesn't go to the set empty-handed or, shall we say, "empty headed." Mossige's work ethic is very English: You either do it right or you don't do it at all.

He recalls doing a fashion shoot in London that required models to hold chain saws, grinders and industrial tools. The magazine staffers and the photographer took five days to conceive the concept and put it down in drawing.

"When doing a shoot, there's spontaneity, but it also has to be controlled," he says. This means several production meetings with the editor, the stylist, the artists and designers to come up with a unified statement.

"I want to have meetings with editors to explain to them how to do it with me. If I'm doing editorial I want it to be so good I can present the pictures in Europe," he says.

Because of Mossige's experience, Cal Carrie Agency established a creative division for him.

Falling into a trap

A session with Mossige provides a learning experience for the models. Makeup is often taken for granted in pictorials. Makeup is a reflection of what the look is trying to achieve—sweetness, naughtiness or elegance.

"Here they want the makeup to be seen. That is not the point. In the U.K. makeup is meant to enhance beauty without people noticing she's wearing makeup. I prefer it if a girl looks natural in the photo," he says.

Mossige also has to correct the models' habits. "I've had to hold them back. The way the models pose in magazines is over the top. I like it subtle. Some of the poses are oversensual. It's not beautiful anymore. I find it tacky," he said.

At the onset of summer, INQUIRER went to Central Luzon to do fashion pictorials at Mount Pinatubo and at Holiday Inn Resort, Clark Field. The designers—Auggie Cordero, Noli Hans, Frederick Peralta, Barge Ramos and Mike dela Rosa—created elegant gowns that were to be set against a casual, tropical setting.

"It's very easy to fall into the trap of doing something that's been done before. When I'm doing a shoot, I try to get a different angle," he says. To emphasize the graphic quality of the clothes, the images required high contrast lighting.

To Mossige, one good photograph in a pictorial is already an accomplishment.

"I am my biggest critic. I am very critical of what I'm doing. If I'm coming back from a shoot and it was not good enough, I get disappointed with my staff. I always want to improve my photography. I want it to be better than the last one," he says.

Marge C. Enriquez

Pampering women the way they want it

WORKING with women for more than half of his life has allowed Ricky Reyes to know them like the back of his hand. In fact, he may know more about women than other members of the female species themselves.

"I know how they think because I've seen all kinds. I know that when they are depressed, the first thing that they want to do is have a haircut. I know that when their husbands or boyfriends cheat on them, their first instinct is to rush to the parlor and get a makeover. There is something about a simple hot oil or a soothing foot spa that uplifts a woman's spirit," the top hairdresser observes.

And there is something about pampering that is so addicting. You get a hot oil with massage. Enjoy foot spa wherein balmy ointment is applied on your tired feet. Try going through all these in a luxurious environment—cool jazz music, posh furnishing, service at your beck and call, privacy even—and Ricky is most certain you'll come back for more.

This is the premise behind the new One-on-One Salon. Located at Crossroad Arcade in Greenhills Shopping Center, One-on-One Salon is born out of Ricky's knowledge of what women really want and that is pampering. They want this so Ricky is giving it to them in an ambience and a brand of service much unlike his popular chain of salons.

The shop is so-called because it promises to pamper its visitors and be attended to only by one person—either by Ricky or his five-man creative team.

One-on-One is Ricky personified. Step into it and if you know this person, you will instantly recognize Ricky's touch even without looking at the signage outside. The colors of the interiors are opulent—deep green and soothing yellow. The furnishing is mostly in gold wrought iron, adorned with lush floral arrangements much like in a hotel lobby. Only cool jazz and R&B music is heard in this 160-sq m, two-story salon.

Upstairs where it is fully carpeted, there is a mini business center where visitors can send and receive calls, faxes and e-mails. This is also where rooms for body scrubbing, facials, bleaching, skin peeling, massages and all the other treatments are given. The reception area is also more like a mansion's anteroom with a very comfortable sofa to boot, a good place for family or friends to lounge while waiting for the client. Ricky even offers his well-appointed office if a bigger space is needed for a client's instant meetings.

Fu for those who look for Ricky. The mega hairdresser is at One-on-One on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for practically the whole day. On these days, you can actually see Ricky buckling down to work—cutting hair, perming, coloring, happily bantering—and not talking about business for once.

For appointments, call 721-2497/7372.

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Lancel celebrates summer with delicacies and fantasies

THERE is no better way to celebrate Spring and International Women's Day than a festive dance and fashion show performed by beautiful ladies carrying colorful and fashionable women's bags. Themed "Delicacies and Fantasies," Lancel's Spring/Summer 2001 collection features a refreshing collection characterized by delicious colors and fantastic designs adorned by innovative motifs.

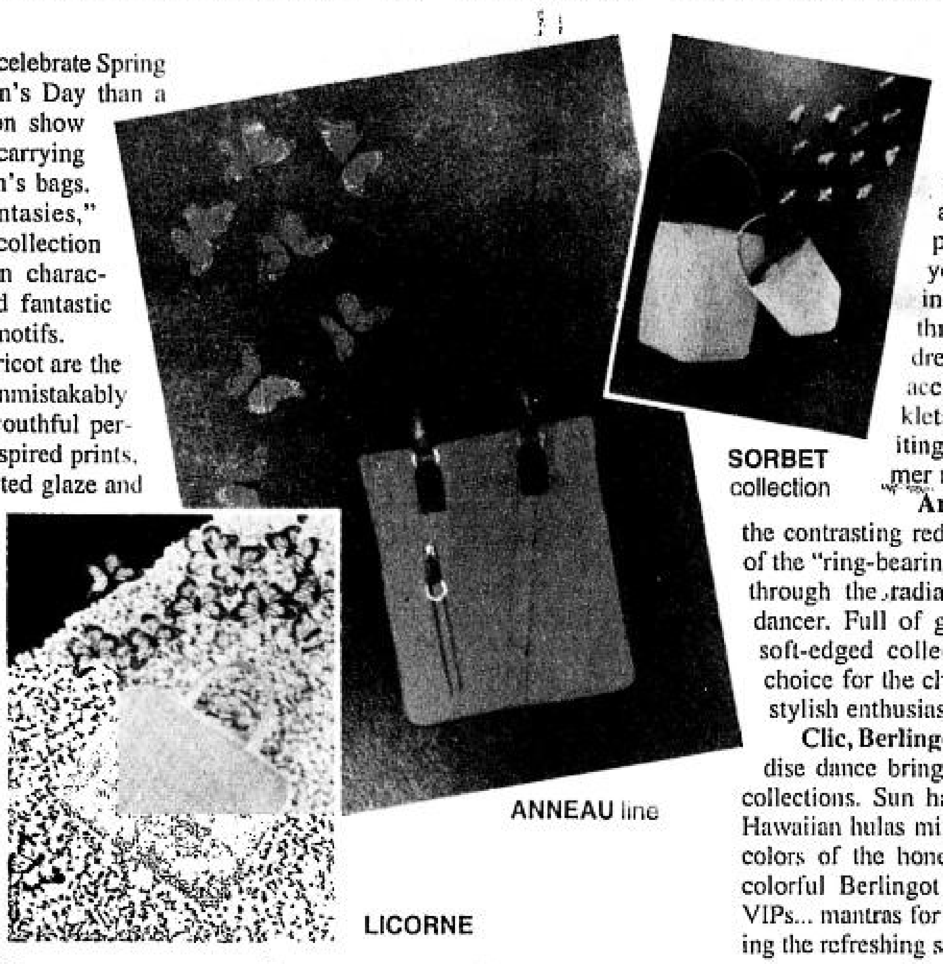
Lime, pistachio, mint and apricot are the vibrant sorbet colors, which unmistakably evoke Lancel's energetic and youthful personality. Coupled with Pucci-inspired prints, pebble-stone texture, honey-coated glaze and complemented by butterflies and sunflowers, the new Lancel collection reinvents the summer, making a true statement to entertain the eye of the beholder and the holder with bright bold colors.

In celebration of Lancel's new collection, a dance and fashion show featuring three types of movements has been specially choreographed to highlight the following products:

Ebene Lin and Licorne—The combination of natural-colored linen and leather of Ebene Lin, and that of the synthetic and light tweed of the Licorne line are perfect accessories for women who prefer an understated casual yet stylish look. The nature-inspired textures are manifested through the Rainforest Dancers dressed in ancient *kahiko* head accessories, wristbands and anklets in ferns and greeneries, eliciting a tribal feel in the warm summer months.

Anneau line—Characterized by the contrasting red and black colors, the styles of the "ring-bearing" Anneau line are displayed through the radiating steps of the Flamenco dancer. Full of gallant vitality, this modern, soft-edged collection presents the practical choice for the charismatic career women and stylish enthusiasts.

Clic, Berlingot and VIP—The beach paradise dance brings out the best of these three collections. Sun hats, shades, floral prints and Hawaiian hulas mix perfectly with the delicious colors of the honey-glazed Clic, the cute and colorful Berlingot and the fun-loving folding VIPs... mantras for charming young ladies inhaling the refreshing summer breeze by the beach.



SORBET collection

ANNEAU line

LICORNE

BEACH bag

HULI MO ANG FRESH CHICKEN, FISH, VEGGIES AND FRUITS AND THE PRICE IS RIGHT.

CHICKEN NA CHICKEN ANG PRESYO NG FRESH PRODUCE NG SUPERSAVERS!
GET THE FRESHEST CHICKEN, FISH AND BEEF. PLUS, CHOICE FRUITS AND VEGGIES!
SAVE WITH SUPERSAVERS! SOON TO BE A HOUSEHOLD NAME!

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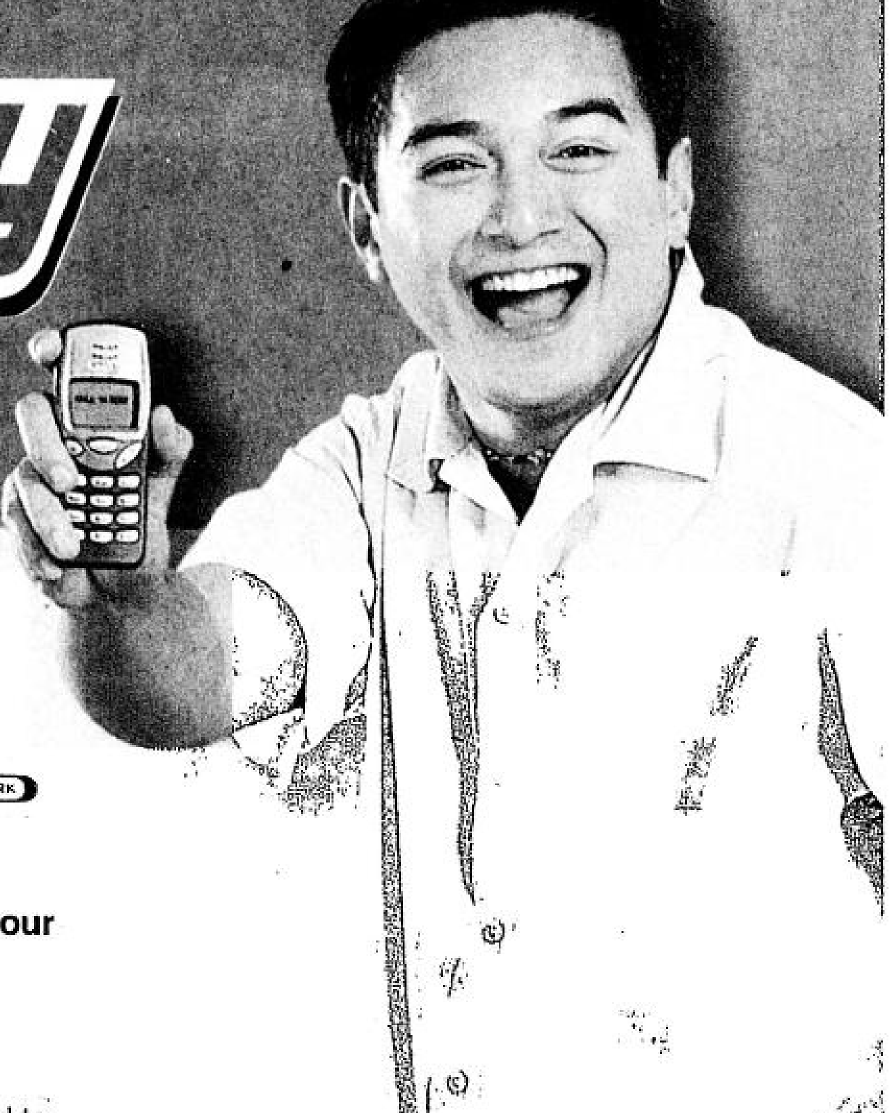

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A: I'm 2na.

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ANGELIC Anton Huang stocks up on naughty items such as Virgin/Slut soaps, Dirty Girl body care products and Burt's Bees' Wings of Love.

Customer care and quality products overcome hard times

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana

ANTON Huang, executive vice president of Store Specialists Inc. (SSI), braced himself as he prepared to read the sales report for year 2000. The past seven months have been the most critical in his years with the family's retail business. But he was pleasantly surprised by what he read.

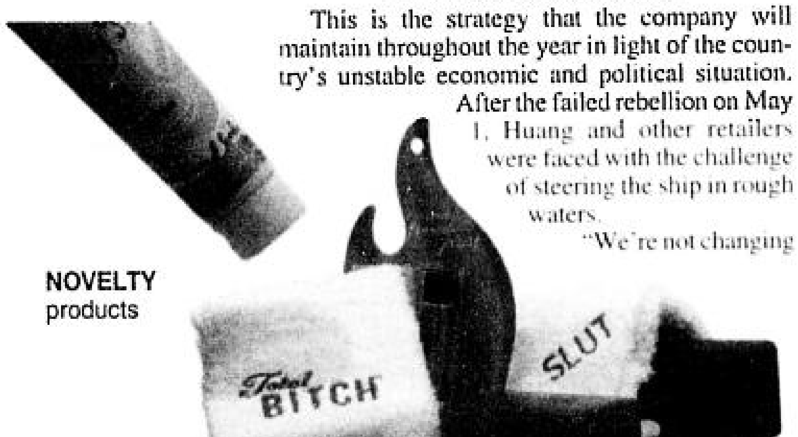
Despite the bomb threats in malls, street marches and the weakening peso, SSI's sales for year 2000 were up by 21 percent over 1999 figures. SSI carries 22 imported labels, ranging from garments to personal care products.

Huang attributes the growth to the fact that SSI held on to its prices despite the volatile exchange rate, assured customers that its products were of top quality and good value for money, and did not downsize marketing plans for the year.

Intimate relationship

This is the strategy that the company will maintain throughout the year in light of the country's unstable economic and political situation. After the failed rebellion on May 1, Huang and other retailers were faced with the challenge of steering the ship in rough waters.

"We're not changing our marketing efforts. We are reinforcing them," he says.



NOVELTY products

AROMAFLORIA'S INHALATION BEADS. Experience instant joy. The beads are infused with essential oils to help diffuse tension.

There's another reason customers keep going back to the stores despite the air of uncertainty. "We're proud to say we've had an intimate relationship with our customers," says Huang.

The staff has been trained to make the customers feel comfortable in the store environment. SSI sales people are solicitous yet unobtrusive. Stores also ring up the clients to inform them of new merchandise or special sales.

In a way, SSI benefited from the peso depreciation. Customers had cut down on their traveling and shopping sprees abroad and found it cheaper in Manila. At the same time, SSI brought in more products for the consumer.

No loyalty

One of their marketing efforts is to promote Beauty Bar, the store focusing on cosmetics and personal care products. The concept was conceived three years ago and the flagship was launched in Glorietta 2 in December 1999. Since the products were hip and novel, it needed an ambience that's opposite of the formality of Rustan's.

"We feel the younger consumer is adventurous, trying out new product lines. Their brand loyalty is weak. They look for extras such as product quality and novelty. The mature customer's loyalty is strong," says Huang.

The mature customer will stick to her Chanel, Estée Lauder or Clarins products, no matter what. The young client will try Smudges for one season and switch to Smashbox or funky cosmetics like Urban Decay, Bloom and Main Street next.

Huang says there's no competition between Beauty Bar and the prestige cosmetics floor in Rustan's and Essences—all of which are owned by the Tantocos. Beauty Bar offers novelty cosmetics and personal care products for a younger market—as young as 5 years old. Two Girl Cosmetics, for instance, appeals to children who want to look like Britney Spears. Huang says Essences' products are treatment-oriented and the store focuses on well-being.

"We do buying together. We segregate the brands. It's pretty clear cut. We're not in actual competition although there's a certain degree of cannibalization," says Huang.

Mainstream high-end brands like Estée Lauder and Clinique are also found in Beauty Bar, even if it's just a stone's throw from Rustan's department store where they have a bigger selling area. It's interesting that sales in both outlets were not affected.

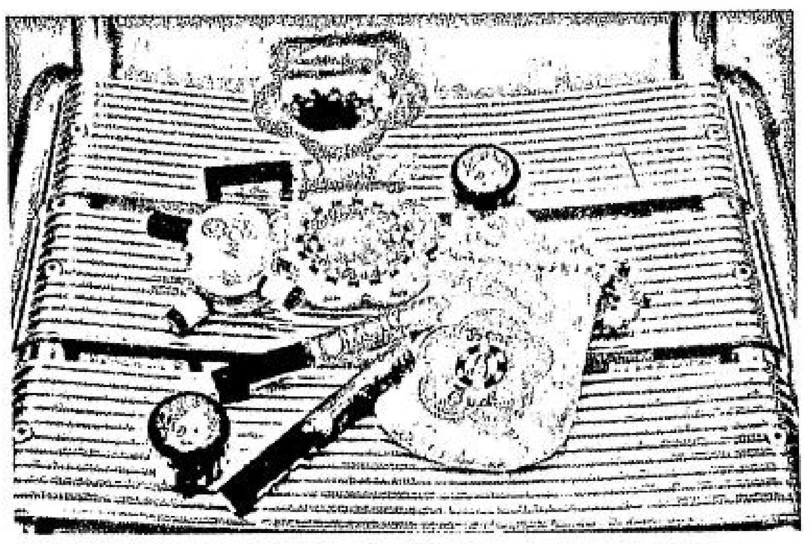
Like Essences, Beauty Bar has its line of aromatherapy and well-being products such as Aroma Body Tea. Philosophy body care is one of the most popular brands. Customers are amused by the pun names on the label such as Under Your Skin body scrub, When Lightening Strikes skin lightener, The Handbook manicure system, Soul Owner exfoliating cream for cracked soles and In the Buff aromatic body gloss for muscle definition. It's got a substantial men's line, including extra-close silicone shaving gel, shaving cream for sensitive skins and an overnight treatment gel that prepares the skin for a closer shave next day, eye cream for men and an oil-absorbing serum. The AromaFloria has sprays and beads infused with scents and essential oils to calm the mind.

Beauty Bar has over 21,000 SKUs or stock keeping units and it will launch 11 products/lines this year. Asked if SSI is saturating the market, Huang replies, "Our main objective is to bring the best products to the Filipino consumer. Each brand is able to cater to a different target market."

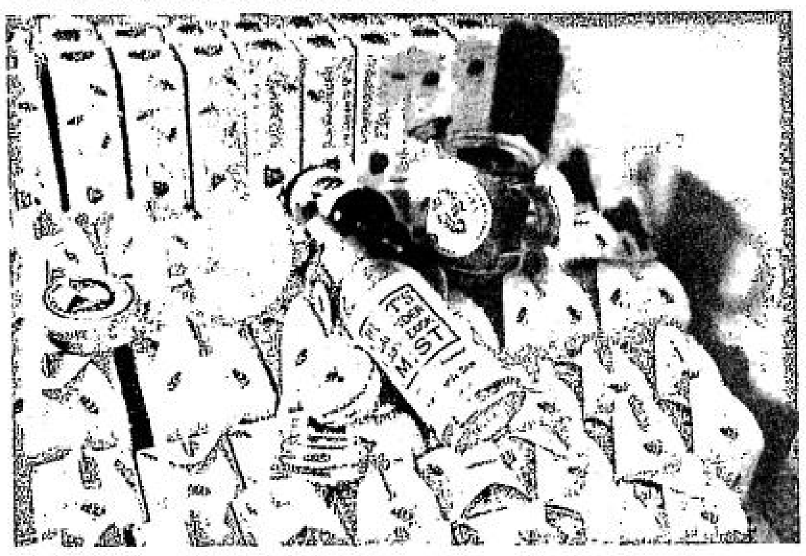
Huang attributes Beauty Bar's success to its marketing niche.

"We're neither high end or low end. We're right smack in the middle. We're high-end enough for those want to save a bit, and there are lots of options. The low-end market looks up to us with our aspirational type of product offerings."

CUSTOM-MADE LIPSTICK. You can prescribe the right shade and texture and get your lip color or lipstick done in one hour.

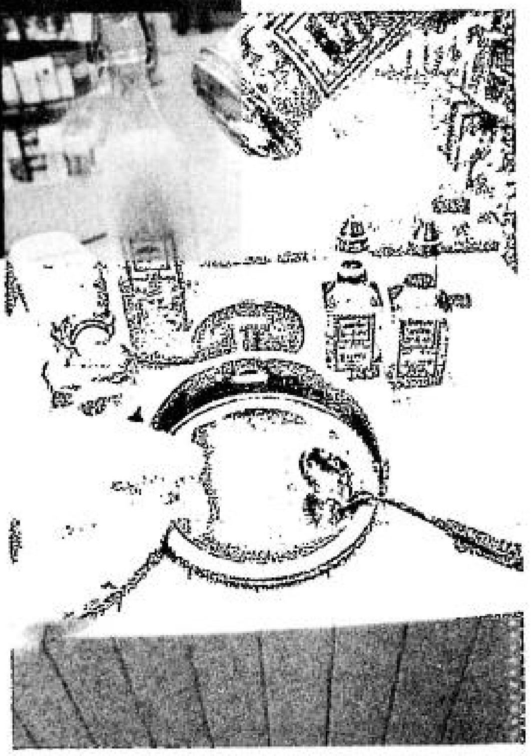


MOLLY nail polish and lip gloss for kids



BURT'S Bees products from the hive

J.R. Liggetts soap cleans your hair without stripping off the oils. You won't need a conditioner.



THE GREAT Home Co. features body care products packed in salt shakers, sugar holders and oil jars.

Thriving when the going gets tough

IN DEFERENCE to the times, Bulgari cancelled its disco party à la Studio 54 to launch its Logomania bags. The timing of the launch was delicate—two days after President Arroyo declared a state of rebellion in the country. Bulgari's local representative Mario Katigbak explains that launches are planned months ahead and must be aligned with the schedules of their principals. Nobody can predict a crisis.

The party-cum-launch was part of Bulgari's marketing tack. The Logomania bags are made of mottled silk that undergoes a rigid process of dyeing and silk screening. The bags are framed in calf leather. They look as if they're going to last for two seasons because of the fragile nature of the fabric. Nonetheless, the graphic logos make the bag attractive to Bulgari's young client. Bulgari has announced that it is now going into fashion, not just watches and jewelry. Obviously, the bold designs cater to a younger clientele.

"We do launches to establish the lifestyle of the Bulgari client. It's not necessarily the affluent," Katigbak says. The new market is the young professional, between 25 and 35 years old, with disposable income. The best way to show that he has achieved a certain status is by investing in an accessory such as a watch or a stud earring, from Bulgari, naturally.

Foreign businessmen comprise 35 percent of Bulgari's market here. With the exchange rate of $1 to P52, it is cheaper to shop in Manila than in Japan.

Even during tough economic times, there are people who become prosperous like exporters and entrepreneurs.

"I can't tell you the formula. We monitor the sales day by day and week to week. I try to be optimistic," says Katigbak.

It all boils down to the fact that desires have to be satisfied, no matter what. That has been the mission of Mario Katigbak, the franchise holder of Bulgari.

During our interview at the height of "Edsa III," Katigbak reported that the year-to-date sales turnover was up by nearly 35 percent compared with the same time last year. He attributes the growth to brand awareness and the store's bullish tactics.

He adds that it took two years for Bulgari to establish the fact that it had a freestanding store at 6750 Ayala with a nifty mix of watches, jewelry, leathergoods and accessories, catering to everyone. This was achieved through socials held at the store.

Were sales affected since the Bulgari store was just a stone's throw from the rallies?

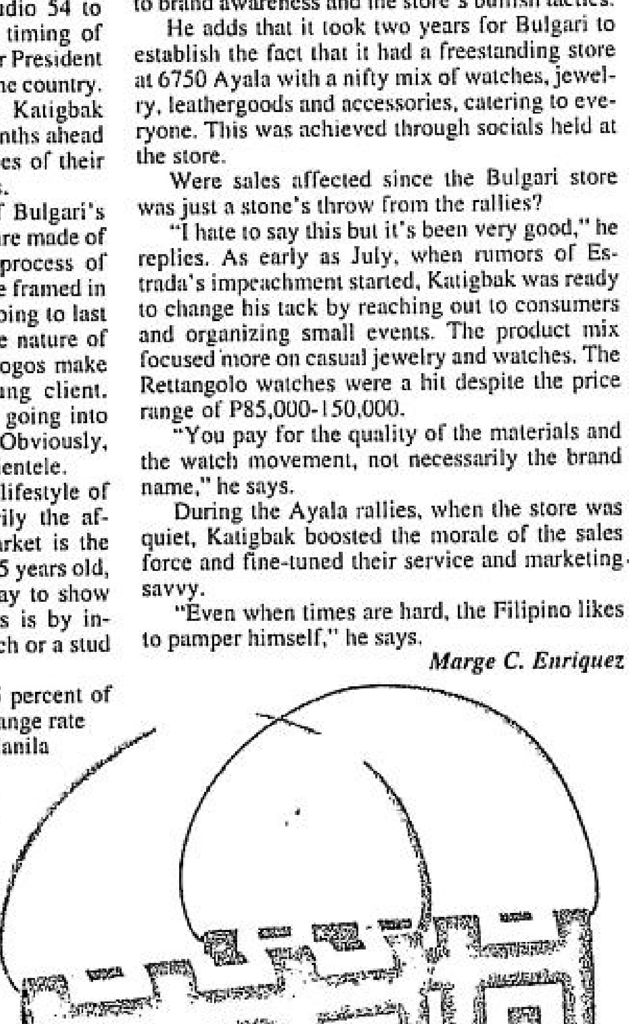
"I hate to say this but it's been very good," he replies. As early as July, when rumors of Estrada's impeachment started, Katigbak was ready to change his tack by reaching out to consumers and organizing small events. The product mix focused more on casual jewelry and watches. The Rettangolo watches were a hit despite the price range of P85,000-150,000.

"You pay for the quality of the materials and the watch movement, not necessarily the brand name," he says.

During the Ayala rallies, when the store was quiet, Katigbak boosted the morale of the sales force and fine-tuned their service and marketing savvy.

"Even when times are hard, the Filipino likes to pamper himself," he says.

Marge C. Enriquez



BULGARI'S summer styles

Hawaii offers more than just floral shirts

BY CAMILLE T. CRUZ
PHOTOS BY RAYMOND LAUCHENGCO

IT was one of the places I have wanted to visit at least once. The island of Hawaii boasts of most of life's pleasures that most people would definitely enjoy: food, sun, shopping, relaxation, a lot of life, hula dance and a few words to learn other than "aloha."

Almost every block on Kalakaua Boulevard in Waikiki Beach had the famous convenience store called ABC Store. Sometimes in one block there would even be two. If I remember correctly, this was the only convenience store chain in Waikiki Beach.

Aside from the well-known Hawaiian Host brand chocolate-covered macadamia nuts, ABC carried a great variety of merchandise—a thousand different kinds of nail files including one with Betty Boop wearing a grass skirt and a floral headpiece (I bought one), ukuleles, sushi, T-shirt-shaped Post-its, cosmetics, bags and more. The place was also packed with the usual tourist souvenir items as well as informal and dressy clothes, of course with the famous floral or ethnic prints.

Hawaiian prints are not only seen in swimwear. They appear on a lot of things—shirts, shorts, pants, hats and even nail files.

Both men and women wear the same prints. Boys and girls can also enjoy some flower power. Some designers use a new kind of floral print, not too dainty and not too feminine. These prints have a touch of the tropics and are sometimes mixed with geometric shapes.

Some use these Hawaiian-inspired florals in black and white as seen in a skirt Michael Kors did or Old Navy's sleeveless shirt dress in a floral black and white print as well. Not everything comes in black and white but it is combination to look for. Red and white with floral and ethnic mixes also make for a good combination. Colors don't necessarily mean bold and colorful. It may be better to feel safe than sorry in subtle print.

Hawaii offered a different vision compared to the last trip I ever made to this side of the world. Walking on Kalakaua Boulevard was like going on a sightseeing trip with sidewalk artists plying their craft and raking in maybe the same kind of bucks like someone on Wall Street.

Tourists were also doing their stuff as they strolled along the boulevard in casual attire and big pockets with money to burn in places like Gucci, Prada, Coach, Louis Vuitton, Armani Exchange and many more. Hawaii is not just your conventional "paradise" but a "shopper's paradise" as well.

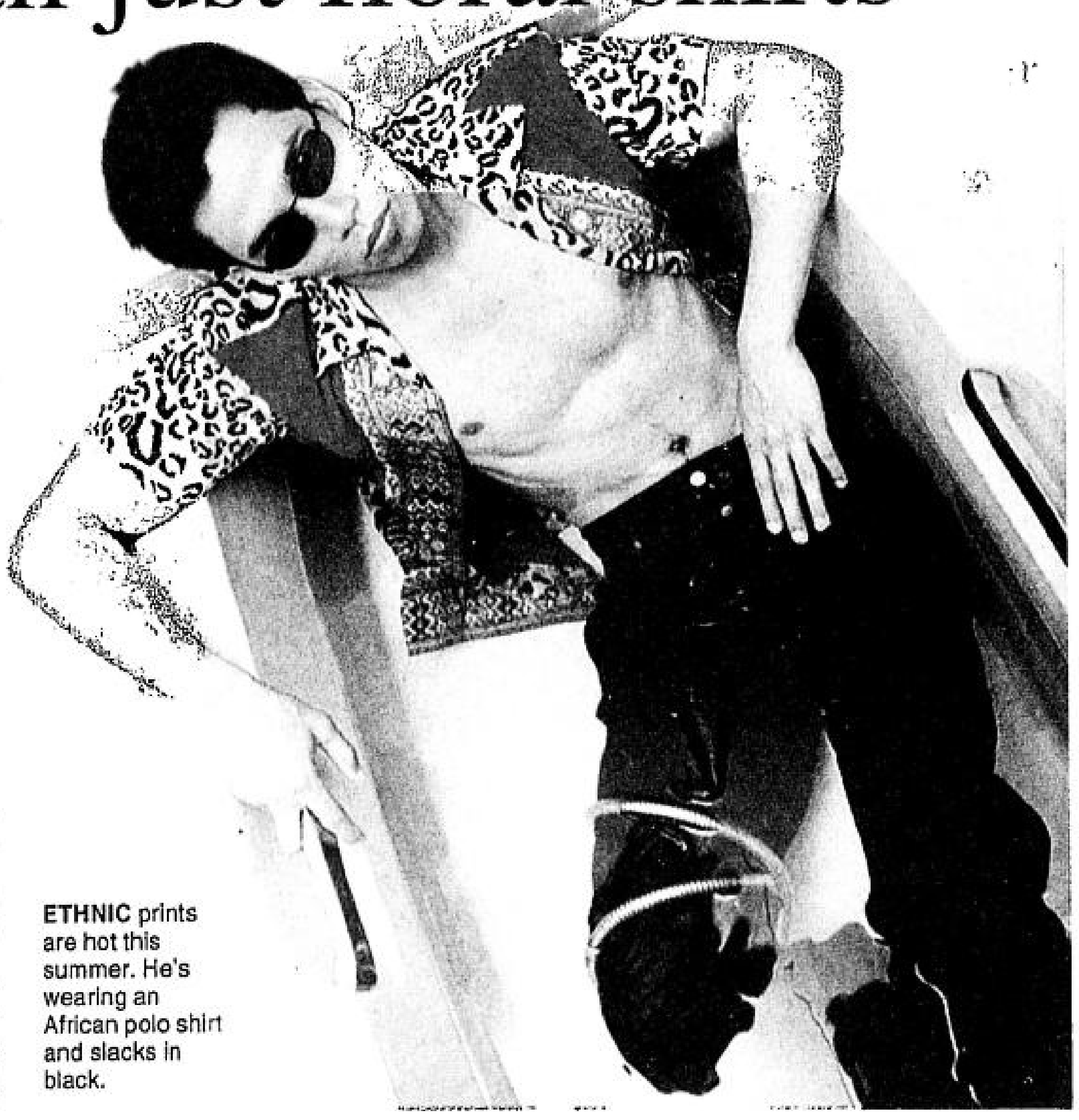
The whole Hawaiian memory remained as life in Manila went on. The weather got warmer and warmer—maybe someone out there even tried to fry an egg on the sidewalk in this kind of weather.

There may be times when you may feel like it is difficult to get close to nature. At those times, you may want to consider wearing the Hawaiian printed garment you brought home with you.

E-mail the author at camille_cruz@hotmail.com

HE wears a Hawaiian shirt and swimming trunks. She's clad in a fuchsia floral tank top and orange shorts.

MODELS: MIKEY MONTES
AND 2TAY MARISTELA OF CAL CARRIE
MAKEUP BY PETER URBI
MAKEUP: MAKEUP FOR EVER, CINDERELLA
STYLIST: PEPSI HERRERA
CLOTHES: REPLAY



ETHNIC prints are hot this summer. He's wearing an African polo shirt and slacks in black.

TOP Australian hairdresser Todd Arndt at work during Schwarzkopf's Osis launch

Aussie hairstylists grace Schwarzkopf's product launch

THE CREATIVE hair creations of Australia's top stylists and the country's best hairdressers recently took centerstage at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel as part of Schwarzkopf's Osis launch.

Displaying the versatility of the new product line, Australia's Todd Arndt and Voulla Fronis, and the Philippines' Nikki Bacay, Nelson Cruz, Victor Ortega and Renante Cobcobo showcased their creative hair designs.

Arndt is a partner of Vogue Salon in Brisbane and is one of Australia's leading stylists having won the Schwarzkopf Professional Hairdresser of the Year Award in 1997 and 1998. Both Arndt and Fronis have been involved in numerous educational tours in Australia, New Zealand and other Asian countries as part of Schwarzkopf's National/International Education Programs.

Bacay, on the other hand, is a veteran stylist of 11 years who has won numerous local hair competitions, the latest of which is the Philippine Hairdresser 2000 award. He also bagged the Avant-garde Category award in the same competition. Bacay will represent the country in the coming Asia Hairdressing Awards in Kuala Lumpur. Ortega won the Commercial Style category and is a creative director of Emphasic Salon. Cruz is the Men's Style winner and manages his own salon in Dagupan City. Young Artist of the Year 2000 Cobcobo will also compete with his Asian counterparts in Schwarzkopf's regional competition this August.

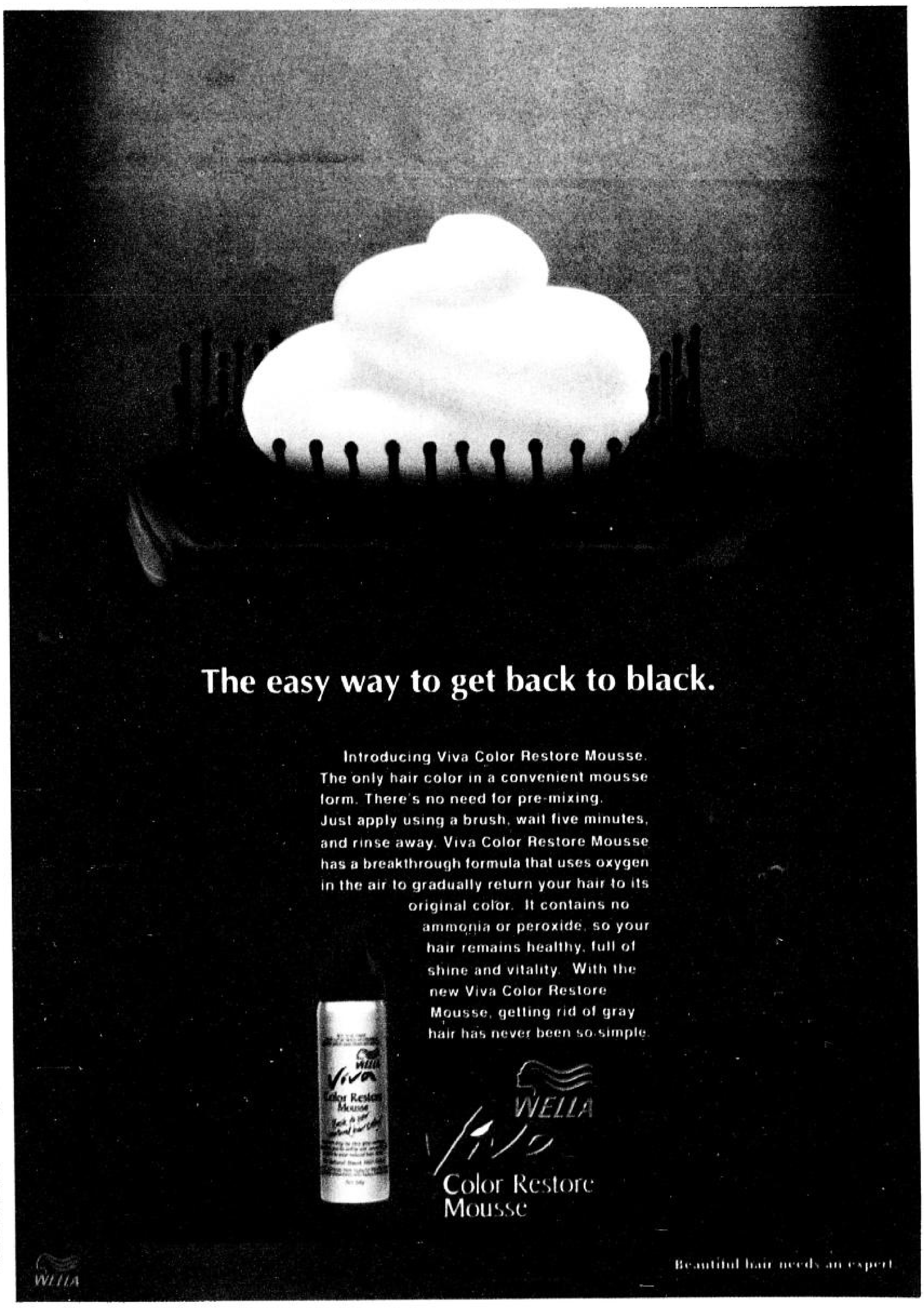
A video of the product shoot kickstarted the event and was immediately followed by the creative hair designs of Bacay, Ortega, Cruz and Cobcobo with the models' makeup done by Nemi Rafanan, Jackie Rivera and Abbog Ocampo. Arndt and Fronis then showed the crowd why they are two of Australia's top stylists with styles that ranged from simple cuts to Euro-punk.

Osis (which stands for Only Sold in Salons) is the result of a close collaboration between Schwarzkopf's experienced research and development team and the world's top hair experts. Aside from assuring its high performance and high technology, Osis also represents the artistic vision of international hairdressers.

Schwarzkopf products are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Top Style Marketing (tel. 726-8507/08, 722-0278) and are available at your favorite salons.

Schwarzkopf
PROFESSIONAL

COMMERCIAL Style winner Victor Ortega of Emphasis Salon styles his model.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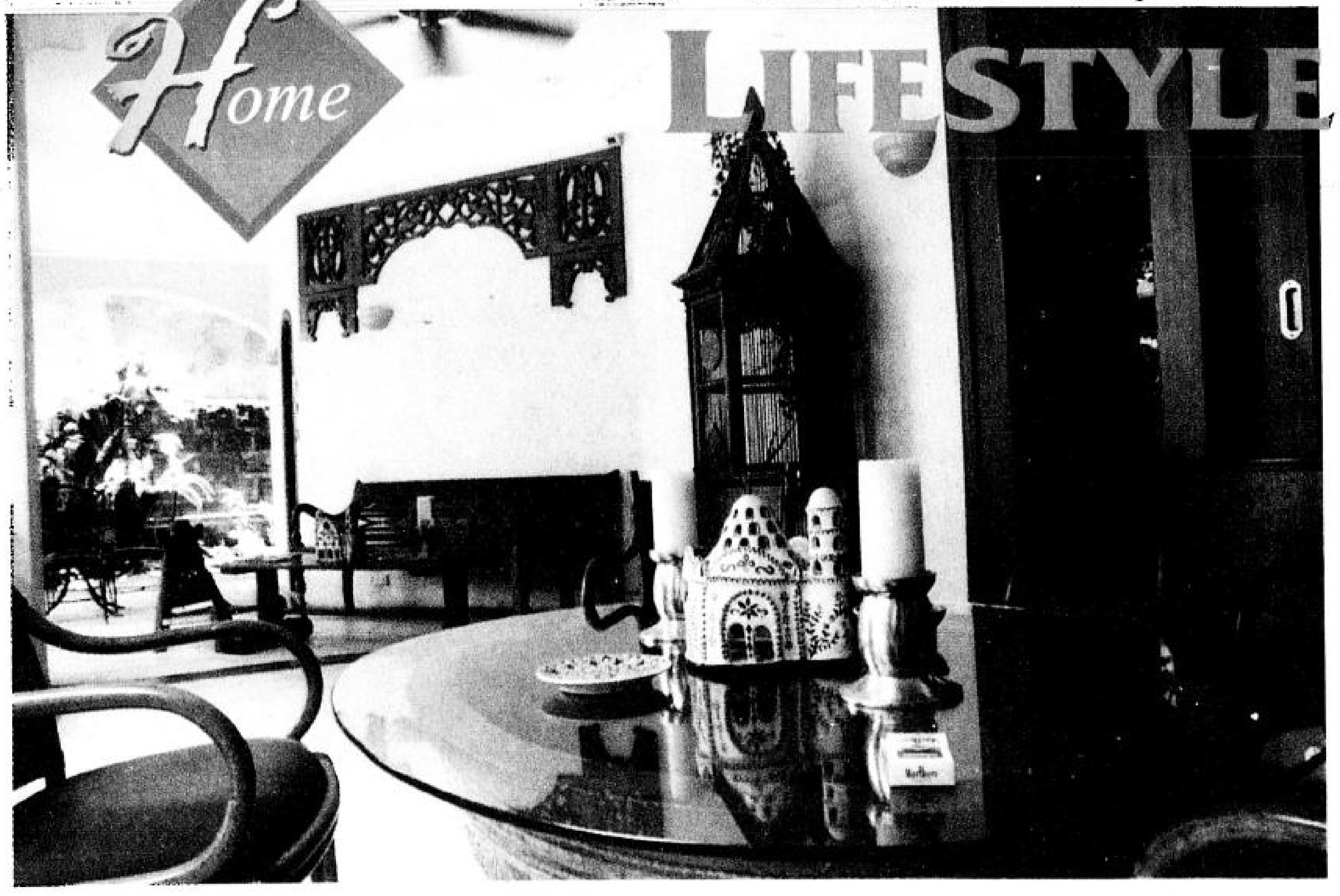
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1170 Series of 2001.

Home

LIFESTYLE

Trend Spotting



OLD AND NEW. Furniture and accent pieces found in the lanai are mostly from the wife's ancestral home. Some are repros, while others were sourced from old houses.

'I don't like grilled windows . . . They look so unfriendly'

A house with natural rhythms

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

HIS life seems to have revolved around his music all these years. Yet the home he shares with his banker-wife and their three girls in an exclusive village in Mandaluyong has no music room. Rather, the two-story Mediterranean-inspired abode reveals his deep sense of family.

"I want to spend every minute of my free time with my family," reasons the musician, who has requested anonymity. "I won't be able to do that with a music room in the house. Bringing home work is the last thing I'll do."

Indeed, instead of one of his hit songs being played on the piano, the squeals of children learning how to swim in the mini pool greeted us that balmy afternoon.

The couple had been married for more than eight years when they first moved into their very own home three years ago. Before that, they lived in her ancestral home in Sampaloc, where almost half of their furniture and accent pieces came from.

"My sister and I divided the pieces among ourselves," she explains. "We had to work around the available furniture when we built this house."

A buffet table with bone inlay, several console tables, glazed jars and a Steinway grand piano are just some of the pieces that have been handed down by the woman's parents to her. Since the wife is clueless behind the piano, she lets the husband do the playing.

"I only play when I feel like it," he says with a smile. "Not even good friends can force me if I don't feel like playing."

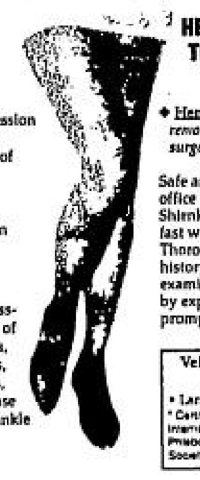
Refreshing colors

A trip to Greece several years ago provided them with plenty of ideas for their yet-to-be-built home. Instead of choosing white for the exterior, like so many houses along the Mediterranean coast, the couple opted for one with a light yellow finish. They stuck to the deep-blue tiles for the roof.

Almost every wall inside a particular area in the house is painted in a certain color: white for the living room, terra cotta for the dining room, lilac for the kitchen, lime green for the hall leading to the second floor and "SM" blue for the family room.

The couple, of course, is just

A HOUSE/ p.G2



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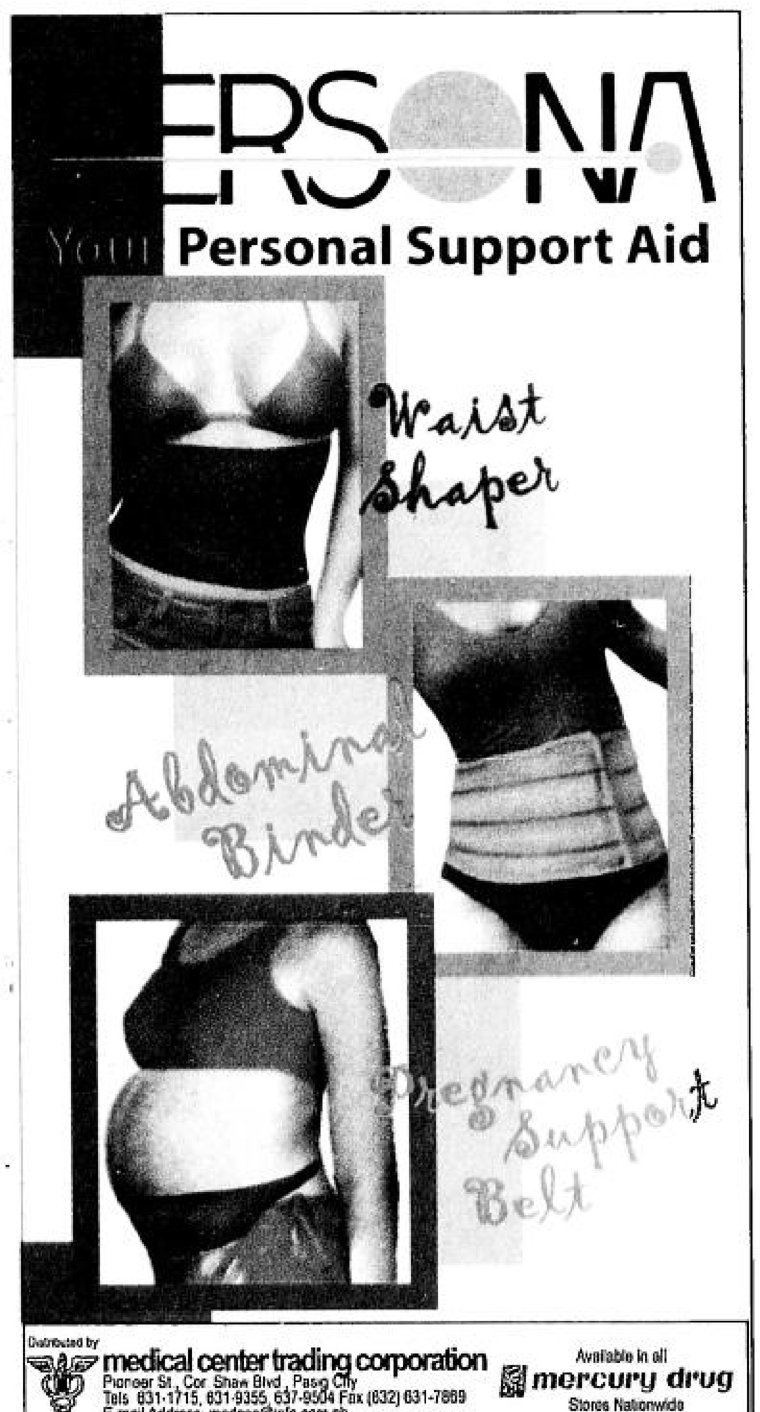

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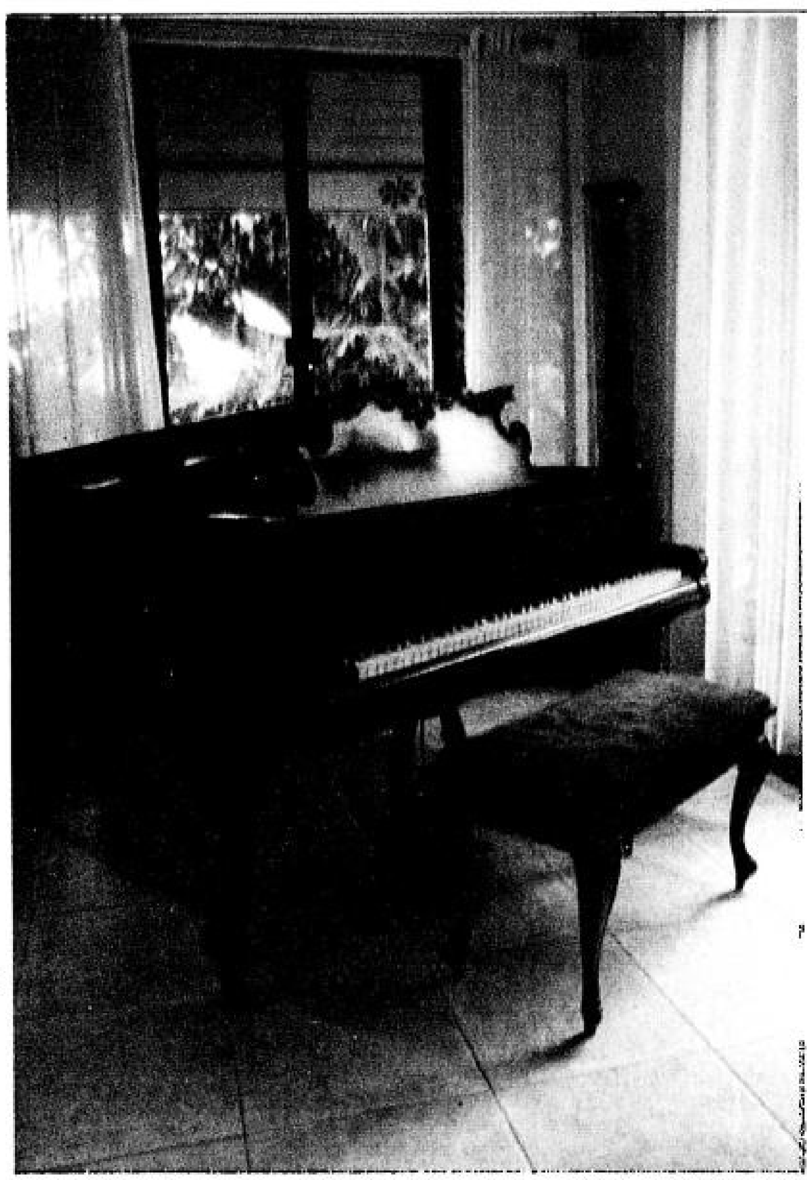
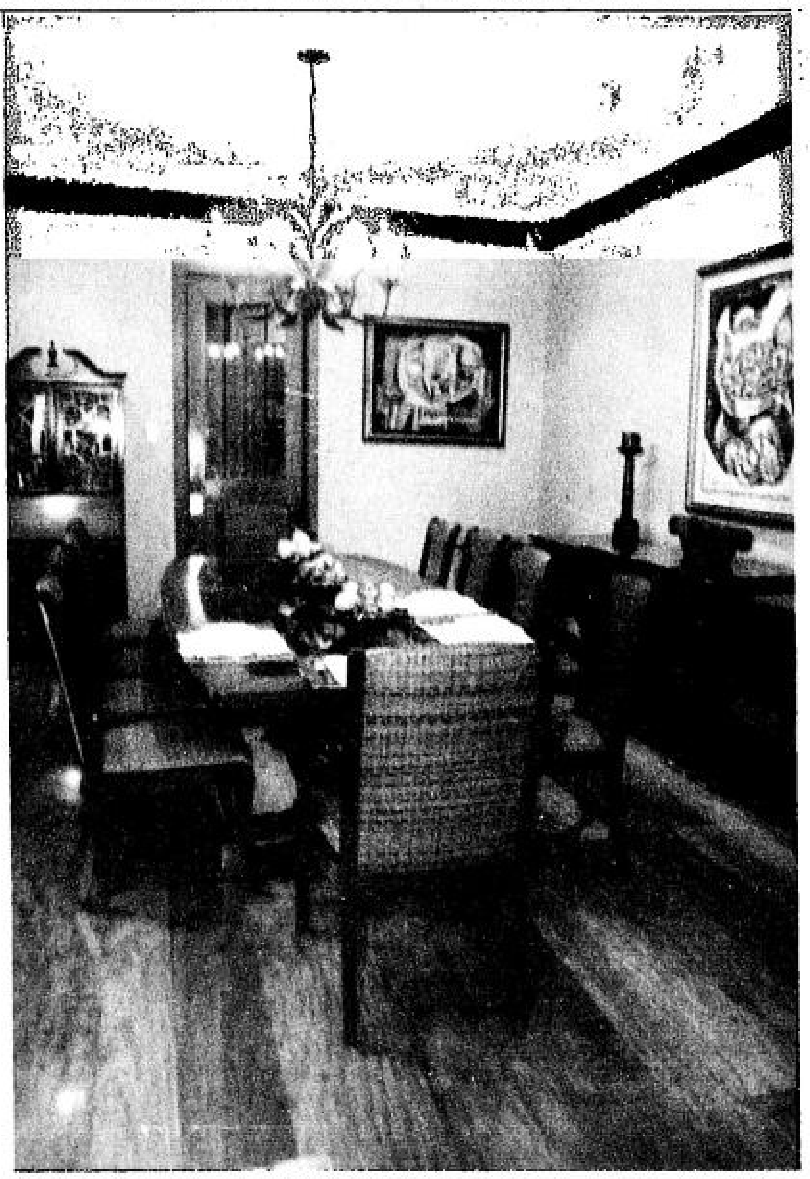


MUSIC CORNER. The wife inherited this grand Steinway from her pianist-mom, but it is the husband who plays it occasionally.

WARM CORNER. The mix of contemporary and vintage pieces continues in an area of the living room. The wrought-iron grill and *traviesa*, for instance, were sourced from a *bodega*.



WARM DINING. Earth tones dominate the dining room. Apart from the dining set by Budji Layug, other points of interest include paintings by William Yu and Ang Kiukok. Instead of expensive cornices, the couple settled for old *traviesas* or railroad ties to cover the gap between the wall and ceiling.

A house with natural rhythms

(From page G1)

trying to be funny as they liken the shade to the blue plastic bags issued by the country's leading mall chain. It was how they described the shade to their architect Milo Vasquez back then.

The cozy kitchen—complete with custom-built ocher cabinets and tile accents—almost didn't figure in their plans. The wife, you see, isn't fond of cooking, but the husband is.

"My wife and I wanted a happy home," he explains, "so we chose refreshing colors for the walls. We also wanted a place that looked lived in."

Rough concrete walls and wooden portions taken from old houses add to the dwelling's homey feel. Like the ground-floor windows, these components also serve a practical purpose.

Unfinished walls, for instance, are cheaper to build and easier to maintain compared to conventional ones. For one, such walls don't require constant repainting or costly wallpaper that fade, peel or turn brown with time.

The couple was able to buy a few paintings by Filipino artists Ang Kiukok, Malang, Onib Olmedo, William Yu and Romulo Olazo to go on the walls. Wooden fretwork, wall accents and a carved double door adorn the lanai.

Instead of expensive cornices, the couple went for old pieces of *traviesa* to cover the gap between the walls and ceilings in the family room and dining area. Other points of interest include ornate wooden boards and vintage wrought-iron grills.

A pair of old Meralco posts frames the common entrance to the family room and dining area. Ordinary tiles boarded by wood and pebble-wash make up the ground floor, except for the elevated dining area where carpenters pieced together *narra* planks taken from the Sampaloc home. Baseboards were done in wood.

Within budget

Slabs of *piedra china* that make up the foyer area and a portion of the garden leading to the mini swimming pool were also sourced from the wife's ancestral home.

"We had to work within a budget," he says. "So we were constantly on the lookout for cheap objects sourced from old houses. We had to beat other customers who were also eyeing the same pieces in the *bodegas*."

And what rules do they go by in choosing the furniture, whether repros or contemporary pieces?

"We choose only those that we feel we can enjoy and, hopefully, find uses for," says the wife.

Their efforts at cost-saving have gone beyond the house's construction. To cut down on costly electricity bills, for instance, the couple opted for huge, sliding windows to allow cross ventilation. Each screened opening has done away with wrought-iron grills.

"I don't like grilled windows," he says, "they look so unfriendly." And so even the second-floor windows have no grills.

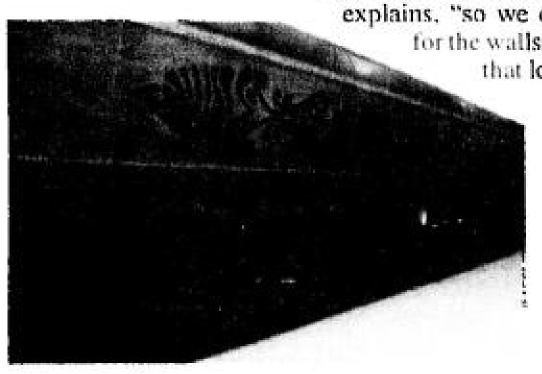
A pair of sliding glass panels is made more quaint by faux wooden shutters and rough, concrete ledges. Intricate details extend to portions of the wooden eaves made from marine plywood.

Several wrought-iron grills taken from an old house border a second-floor balcony accessible from the master bedroom. The couple fashioned a toned-down version of the grills that guard the stairs and several glass doors.

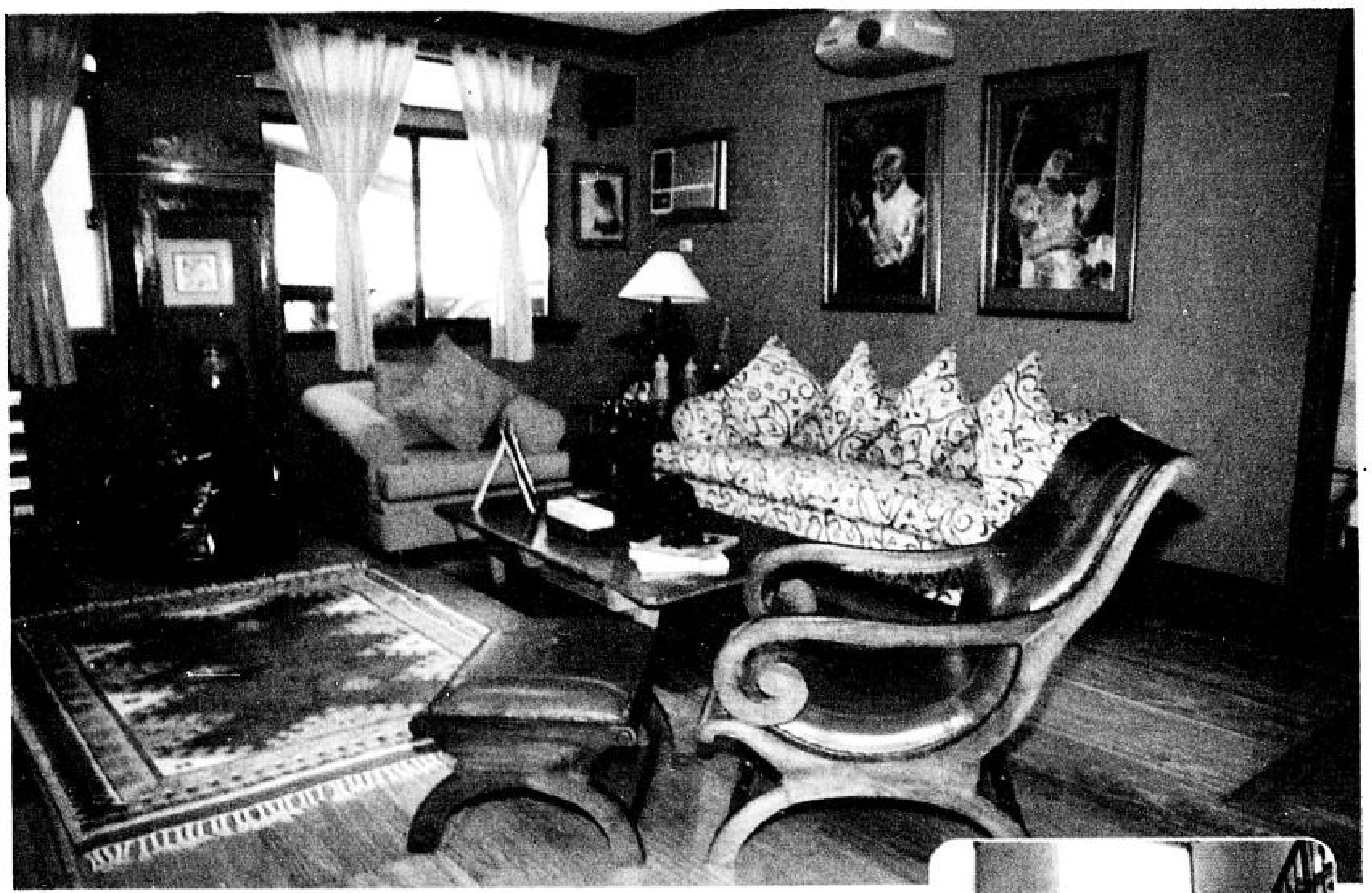
"We love to stay home and enjoy each other's company," says the husband. "Unlike some musicians I know, I seldom work until the wee hours. I try to finish everything within office hours so I can pick up the wife and be home with the family."

The sound of laughter from the home's kiddie occupants is music enough to his ears.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



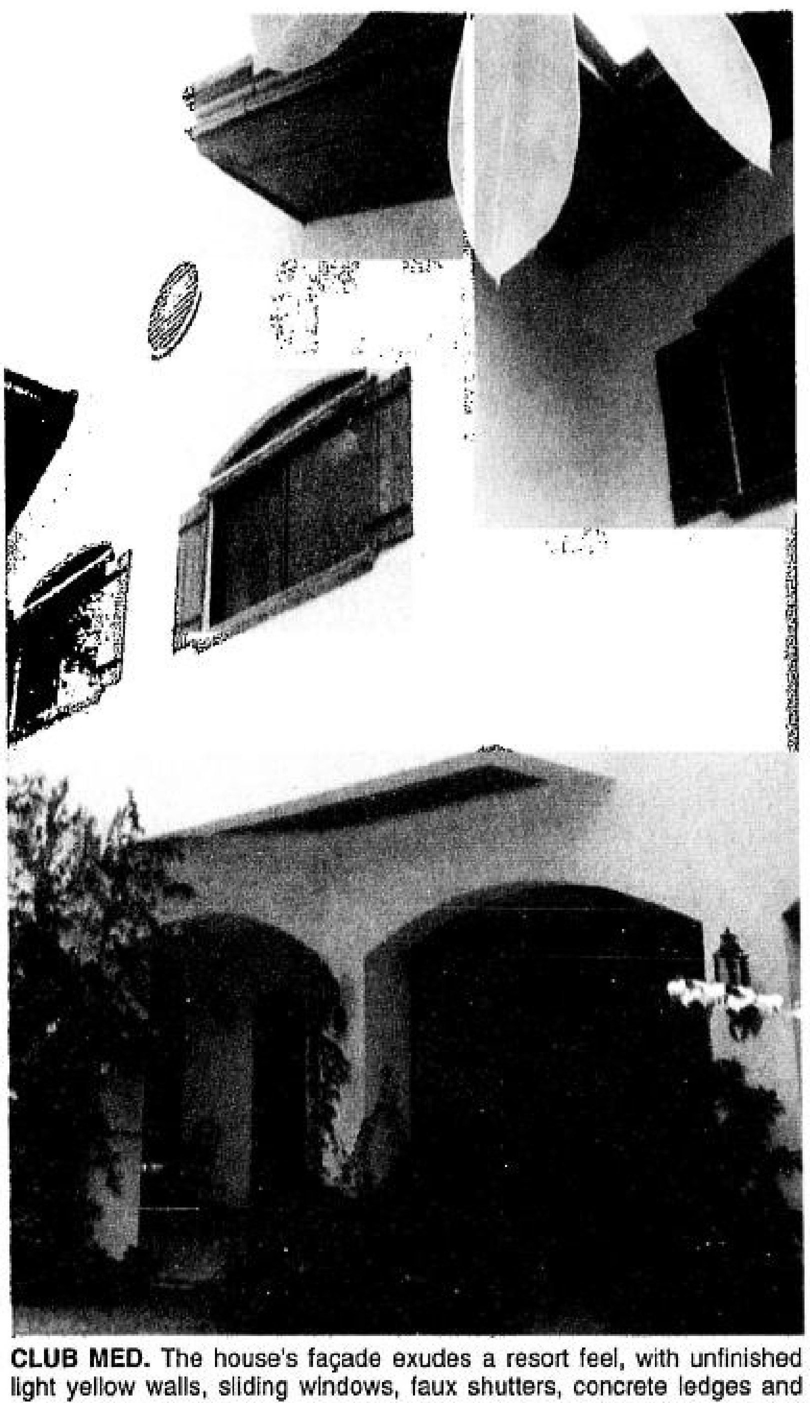
AN EYE-CATCHING detail on one of the wooden eaves



HAPPY HOME. The couple chose "SM" blue for the walls of the family room. Onib Olmedo's distorted figures adorn part of the wall.

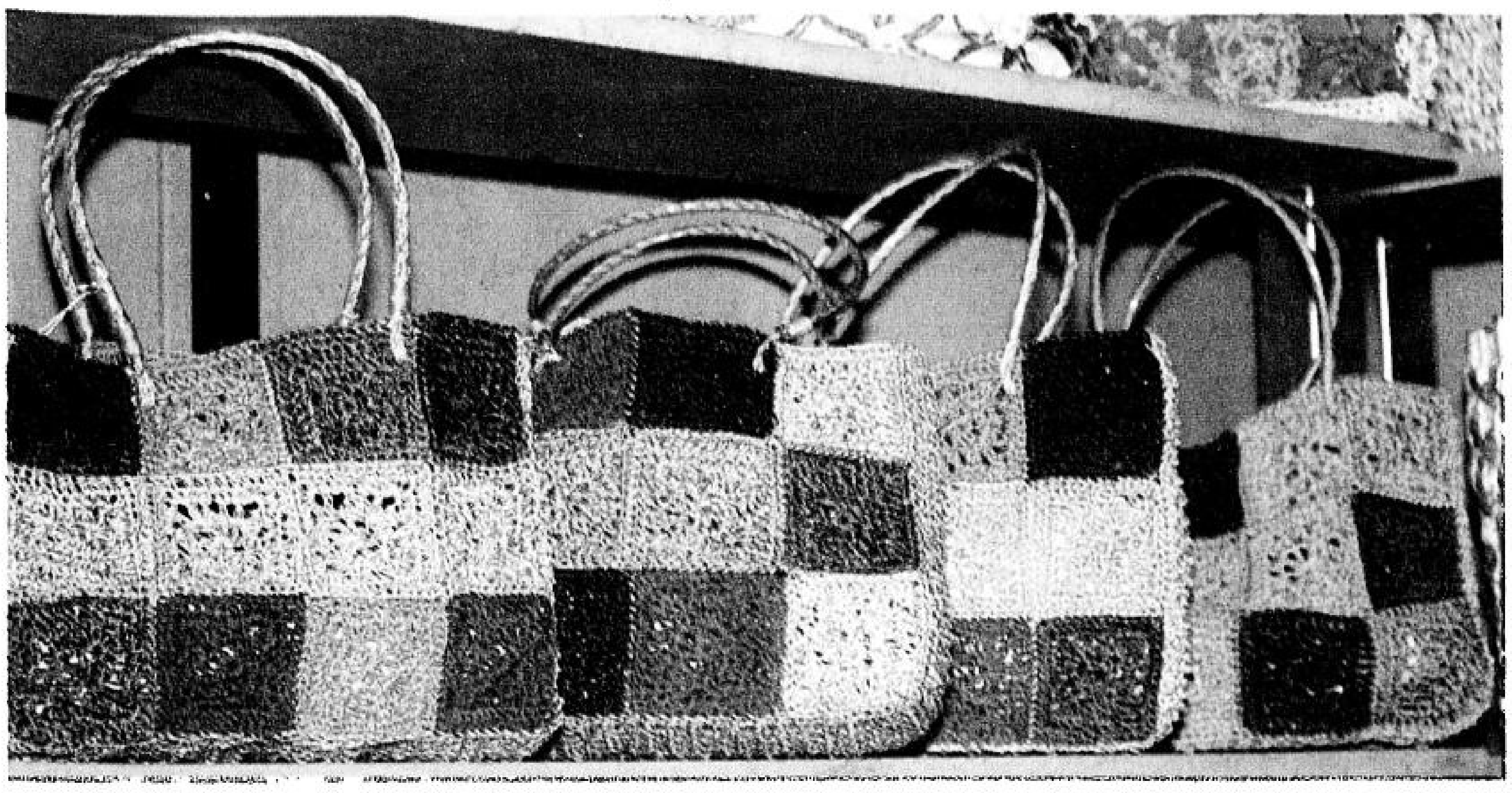
THIS WAY UP. Varnished wood and wrought-iron grills inspired by pieces found in the balcony make up two plights of stairs. The second floor, where the rooms are found, is devoid of any interior design, says the wife.

BRIGHT AND GREEN. Skylight allows the sun to reveal the walls' uneven finish in the hall leading to the second floor. The stairs are removed from the living room to give occupants some privacy.



CLUB MED. The house's façade exudes a resort feel, with unfinished light yellow walls, sliding windows, faux shutters, concrete ledges and wooden eaves. The deep-blue gutters match the color of the tiled roof.

LIVED-IN. A pair of old Meralco posts and an ornate wooden panel frame the dining room entrance. The couple chose ordinary tiles for the living room and *narra* planks for the dining room.



MULTICOLOR abaca bags made by Faces Worldwide Int'l Inc.

Local goes international and vice versa

BY MARGIE ESTRELLA

Fashion accessories made of the most interesting and unusual materials were the stars at the recent Citem trade show

IT was a short but exciting week for the participants of the biannual trade show, otherwise known as the Manila F.A.M.E., for they had merely four days to exhibit all their different fashion accessories for export to other countries.

Booth after booth, there were earrings, bracelets and necklaces full of details. Some are attention-grabbing due to their bright tropical colors. Others were subtler, using only a couple of chunky pieces along a leather strap. Oh yes! Let's not forget the bags. There was a bag for every occasion; beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces that sadly were for export only. After giving the showroom a quick once-over, three questions came to mind: Where do the manufacturers get the materials to make these accessories and, more importantly, how do they know what to make? How do we compete for our piece of the export pie? After all, the fashion industry is a highly competitive field.

Gathering materials

In the past, the Philippines had been known to export her raw materials abroad where they would then be manufactured just so we could buy the finished products back. This is no longer the case. When it comes to fashion accessories, we now use our own materials and make them here.

Beads and shells aren't the only raw materials that the local manufacturers use. There are many more types of material that are excellent for making accessories. Some of these are coco, wood and abaca, all of which are abundant in Cebu. One booth carried bags that looked like they were made of wood but were actually of coconut shells (which is cheaper than wood). Jewelry material included the more unusual coco twigs, snake vertebrae, carabao bone and chicken nails.

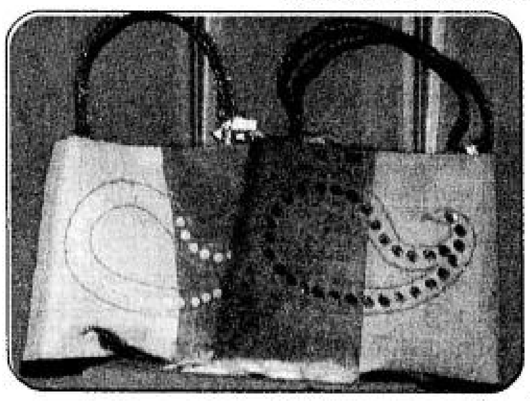
Trend hunting

A fashion magazine is probably the first thing one would consult for the latest trends. But to a manufacturer, an accessory featured in a magazine is simply something that has already been done.

Besides being aware of what is currently selling in the stores, manufacturers and designers must also keep their eyes peeled for what is most likely the next "big thing."

The majority of the manufacturers at the trade fair were from Cebu. According to Butch Carungay of Avatar Accessories, manufacturers must begin to create products at least six months in advance in order to have enough time to exhibit and receive product orders from different retail stores and importers.

Timing is definitely a big factor in manufacturing. Designs don't happen overnight and inspiration doesn't necessarily just come from within either. In fact, manufacturers have to pay close attention to external factors like what styles local and international designers are trying to promote, not to mention look at "fashion forecasts" made by trending agencies. (Yes, there are actually agencies out there that make a business out of creating trends). Even after a necklace or handbag has been created, it still might have to be toned down to suit the general public's taste.



PAISLEY print bags with beaded straps made from abaca, manufactured by Jim Castler International Inc.

Manufacturers sell their products to importers, who then market products to stores, where we can buy them and add them to our own collection of, say, funky accent pieces.

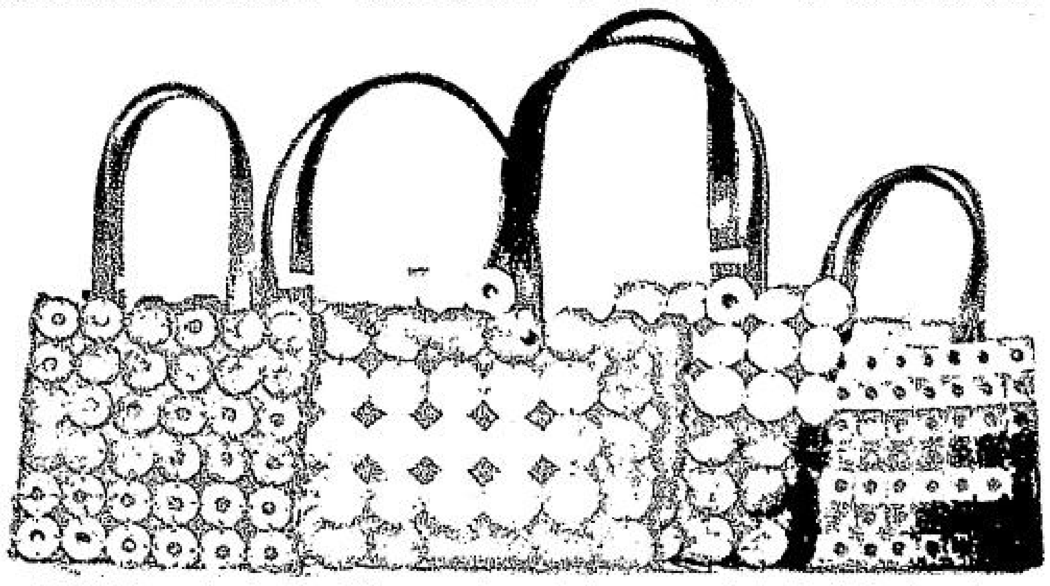
Coming up

So what is the upcoming trend? There really isn't one in particular since there are different types of styles for those who want to look classic and those who want to look cutting edge and so on.

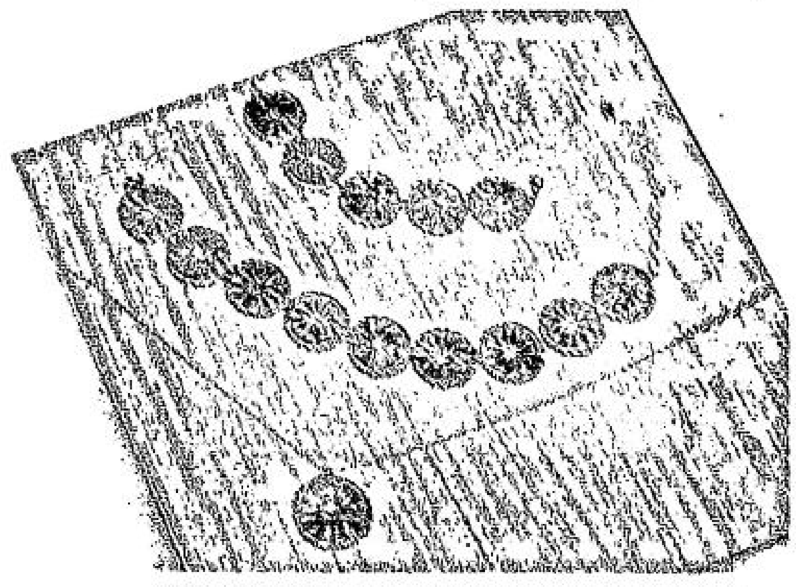
What is currently grabbing the attention of buyers are accessories in summer colors, bright and bold, full of oranges and other Caribbean shades.

And these aren't just for summer either. The fall season is likely to explode with colors as well. On the flipside, browns and blacks are still alive and kicking in ethnic-looking items of African influence. This means that animal prints and chunky bracelets and earrings can still compliment last season's wrap-around skirts and linen shirts. A lot of these products are handmade and look well crafted.

The fashion accessories displayed at the Manila F.A.M.E. were definitely worthy of being called world class. Most, if not all, of the products were for export only. More often than not, it is only after products are deemed trendy by the western market do they become local hits. But it's not purely because we are trying to imitate the west; rather, local products become readily available in good quality only after they have been marketed abroad. That said, as much as western trends inspire the local market, isn't it possible that we inspire them as well? They are, after all, reintroducing a locally made product with one difference: it now may carry an imported brand name.

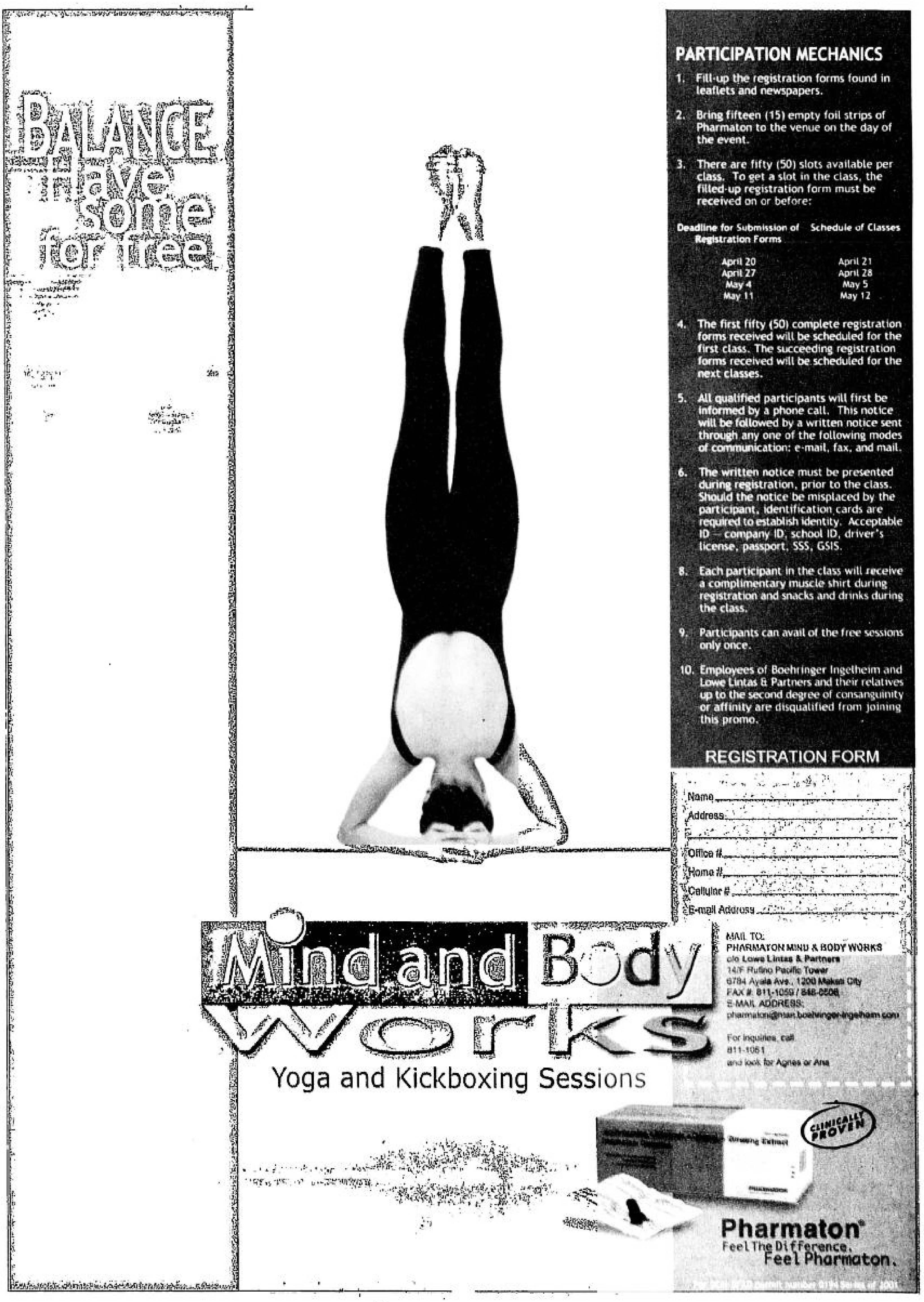


RETRO bags inspired by '60s pop art—made from coconut shell with leather straps by Jim Castler International Inc.



BRACELETS and necklaces from Avatar Accessories, made of orange and blue leather with antique gold finish

LEATHER-STRAP bracelets with beaded paisley design from Avatar Accessories



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May 11	May 12

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Big brother to Bicol craftsmen

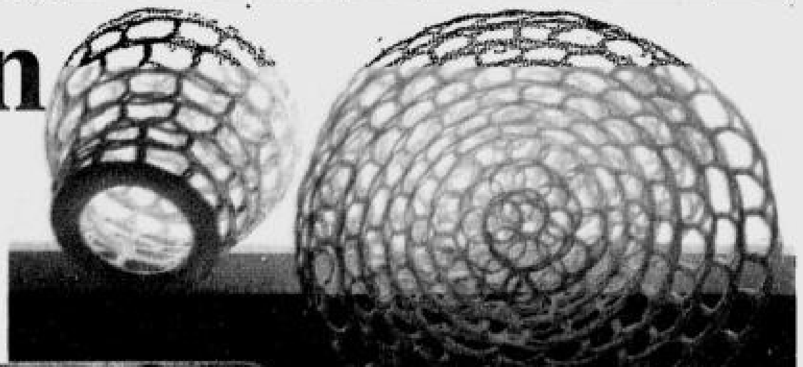
AL Caronan's ceramics, made from Bicol's pearlite, displayed at the Movement 8 booth in the recent Manila FAME Trade Fair

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

SAY Bicol and it immediately evokes Mayon Volcano, Nora Aunor, *pili* candies and *laing*, and such trademark products as baskets, bags, placemats and planters. To boost its image, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Mission (Citem) commissioned entrepreneur and design consultant Al Caronan to work with local suppliers to produce fashionable accessories for the home.

Caronan was inspired by Sorsogon's seaside and bucolic charms, Naga and Legaspi's provincial textures and textures. Sorsogon is his favorite place for its unspoiled beauty, changing landscapes, seascapes and colonial churches.

LAMINATED abaca vases



BURI vases and plates

He was fascinated by the ubiquitous abaca fiber and twine and saw their potentials in the export market. He adds, "Bicol is blessed with a lot of materials. Next to Cebu it is one of the best places to explore materials that can be made into world-class products such as abaca, seagrass, pandan, tiger grass, perlite (powdery white clay), lava rock, *buri* and morass. It also has diverse flora and fauna that can be dried and woven into bags, baskets and balls.

The Bicol booth setting at the recent Manila FAME Trade Fair was inspired by Caronan's trips around the region. "Seeing the abaca fiber being processed inspired me to showcase the material from it being stripped and then made into twine, then later fashioned into a myriad products," he says.

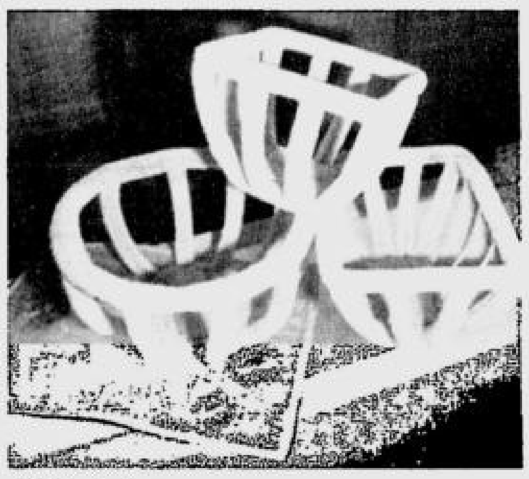
The booth featured candleholders and vases that were reprocessed and given innovative treatments. It also introduced new techniques and cutworks for throw pillow. Caronan also incorporated new materials such as rubber and plastic into homeware and fossilized leaves, into bags.

"I am now acting like a big brother to the suppliers I've met. With Bicol (Citem's partner region), I am also fulfilling a personal mission of sharing my resources and what I have learned, transferring some minor technology. In a way I owe the Bicol region where I am now, as that's where I first got my break. I also found my first suppliers in Bicol when I was just starting out. This is actually payback and, hopefully, something like a pay-it-forward, with the hopes that it will snowball into something tangible," he says.

Caronan majored in broadcast communications at the University of the Philippines. He started out as a scriptwriter and producer and worked in Citem shows. In pictorials he would style products. Eventually, he started advising suppliers on how to improve their craft.

He set an export company, which specialized in Christmas décor and home accessories.

Considered one of the top exporters in the Philippines, his products are sold in major stores in the United States. Today he helps craftsmen become exporters.



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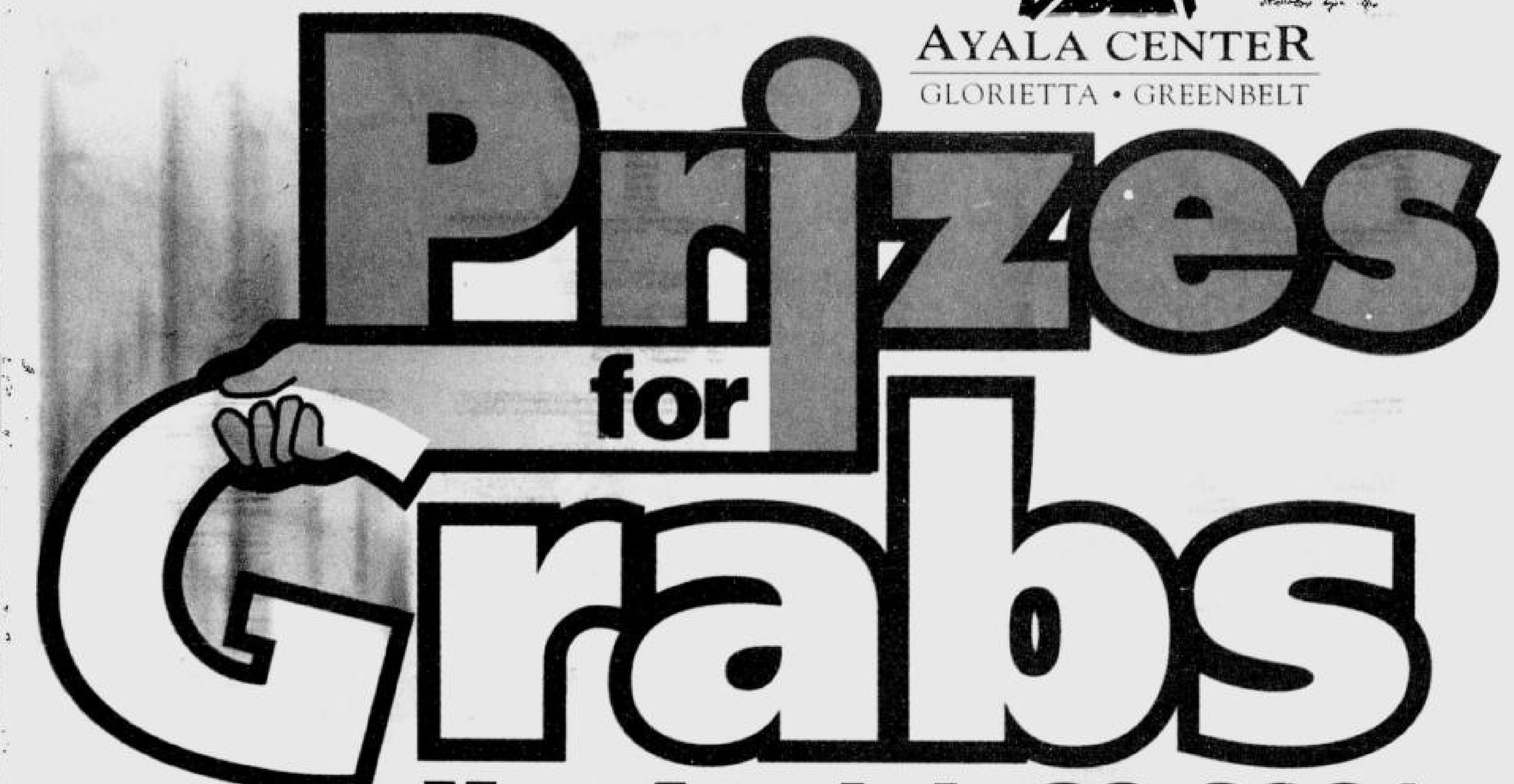

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